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THE  
*Topsfield*  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS

OF THE  
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*V. 17-18*  
VOL. XVII

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*1912-13*  
1912

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TOPSFIELD, MASS.

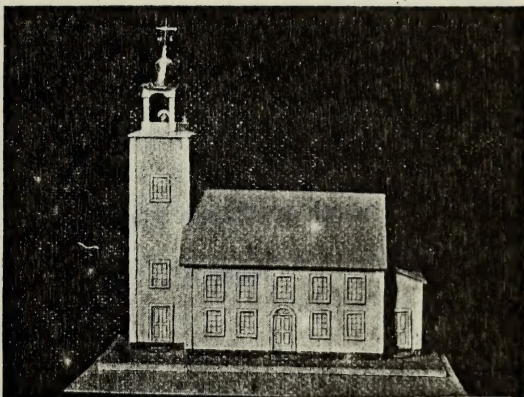
Published by the Society

1913





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THE TOPSFIELD MEETING HOUSE,

BUILT IN 1759.

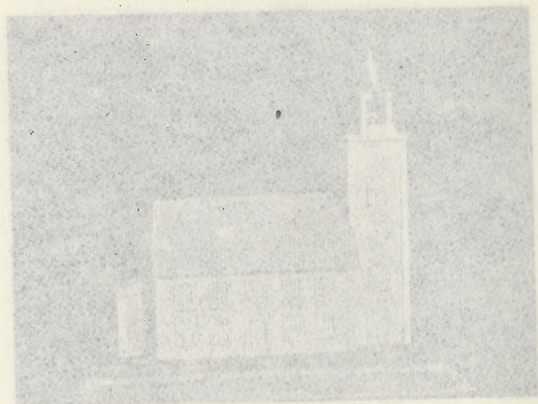
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THE MERRILL PRESS

Topsfield

MASS.

1902



THE THORPE MEETING HOUSE

BUILT IN 1752

(See page 25)



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*Editor*

NICHOLS

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BY HENRY F. LONG (*Continued*).

WILLIAM AVERILL OF IPSWICH AND SOME OF HIS

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NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD, COPIED

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW (*Continued*).

TOPSFIELD VITAL STATISTICS, 1911.

THE MERRILL PRESS

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE  
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 30, 1911.

The membership of the Society on December 30, 1911 was 236. Only one new member was elected during the past year, while one has resigned, eleven have been dropped for nonpayment of annual dues and five have died:—Mrs. Amanda D. Clifford of Topsfield, William Orrin Hood of Danvers, John E. Morris of Hartford, Conn., Augustus V. Peabody of Malden, and John Henry Smith of Salt Lake City.

Three meetings of the Society have been held at which papers were read by Hon. Arthur H. Wellman and the Secretary. Volumes 15 and 16 of the Historical Collections have both been completed and distributed during the year and volume 17 is partly in type. In volume 16 two groups of tintype portraits of Topsfield people, taken about 1868, were included with accompanying short biographical sketches. These have aroused considerable interest and in following volumes it is proposed to continue the series. Accordingly it is suggested that the Secretary be permitted to have access to tintype albums preserved in the various homes so that family groups of portraits may be engraved. It would be desirable to include larger engravings from photographs but the cost of reproduction is greater. This, however, can easily be done if relatives or friends would assume part of the expense. By continuing this plan, the Collections would contain in the course of time, a portrait gallery of many of our townspeople.



## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Of the present membership only ninety-eight reside in Topsfield. There should be a very much larger percentage of our population enrolled and if each member would only ask a neighbor or friend to join, without doubt a courtesy would thereby be conferred and also a benefit to the Society. The gatherings held during each year present opportunities for meeting where there are no social, political or religious distinctions, while the annual volume of Collections in itself is certainly worth more than the small assessment. May I ask you one and all to please propose the name of at least one new member during the coming year. The simple request on meeting a friend will be all that is necessary in many cases for no doubt very many people have never had the matter brought to their attention.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Secretary.

Jan. 1, 1912, Balance cash on hand, \$201 50

## THE BUILDING FUND

1911

Jan. 1, Amount on hand in Salem Savings Bank, \$813 36

Interest one year, 32 84

\$846 20

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Examined and found correct,

HENRY F. LONG,

W. PITMAN GOULD,

Auditing Committee.







# REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 30, 1911.

## RECEIPTS

1911

Jan. 1,	Balance on hand,	\$142 72
Dec. 30,	Historical Collections sold,	13 50
"	Annual dues,	173 50
"	Bindings sold,	47 50
		<hr/> \$377 22

## PAYMENTS

1911

Dec. 30	Printing Vol. 15 balance,	\$12 25
"	Binding Vol. 15,	33 41
"	Printing Vol. 16,	71 36
"	Binding Vol. 16,	33 51
"	Engraving Vol. 16,	9 90
"	Stationary and printing,	11 60
"	Postage,	3 63
"	Balance,	201 56
		<hr/> \$377 22

Jan. 1, 1912, Balance cash on hand, \$201 56

## THE BUILDING FUND

1911

Jan. 1,	Amount on hand in Salem Savings Bank,	\$813 36
	Interest one year,	32 84
		<hr/> \$846 20

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Examined and found correct,

Treasurer.

HENRY F. LONG,

W. PITMAN GOULD,

Auditing Committee.



MRS. MARY LAKE (GOULD) NICHOLS.

---

Mrs. Mary Lake (Gould) Nichols who died very suddenly in Topsfield on Dec. 17, 1912, was the eldest daughter of Andrew and Mary Prudence (Lake) Gould of Topsfield, where she was born May 24, 1831 in the house long known as the David Lake house. She married Mar. 10, 1857, in Newburyport, Lucius Warren Nichols, who died in Topsfield, Aug. 26, 1888. She left one daughter, Martha E., wife of Wm. Pitman Gould of Topsfield.

Mrs. Nichols was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church with which she united in 1868 and was particularly interested in every event relating to its history. She also was a charter member of the Topsfield Historical Society and a constant attendant at its meetings. Her knowledge of local history and genealogy was extensive and freely extended to all in search of information. In November, 1885 she met with a severe accident which brought about years of physical suffering, yet she ever was one of the most cheerful of people, never idle, her busy hands constantly employed with needlework or the making of lace. Her remarkable will and high courage did much to prolong her years. She was loved by all who knew her for her bright smile and her helpful word.





THE  
EARLY RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF



MRS. MARY LAKE (GOULD) NICHOLS.

The free hold-  
ers according  
here at the Meet-  
ing Current at 12 o'clock  
agree with y<sup>r</sup> C<sup>l</sup>  
Osgood to the w<sup>th</sup>  
Dat. Topsfield  
Jacob Dorman

Qual-  
ified meet  
member  
own will  
William

by order  
of y<sup>r</sup> Select-

At a Lawfull Town meeting on y<sup>r</sup> 29 Day of  
November 1725

Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meet-  
ing voted

The Town unanimously Agreed to give the reverend M<sup>r</sup>  
William Osgood a Call to Settle with us in the Ministry. voted

The free holders and other inhabitants of this Town Qual-  
ified According to Law for voting are to take notice to meet  
here at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>  
day of Decem<sup>r</sup>: next After the Date hereof at 12 of the  
Clock in 5<sup>th</sup> day.





THE  
EARLY RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF  
TOPSFIELD, MASS.

COPIED BY HENRY F. LONG.

*(Continued from Vol. XVI, page 164)*

The free holders and other inhabitants of this Town Quallified according to Law for voting are to take notice to meet here at the Meeting house on Monday y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> of November Current at 12 of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in said day to see if the Town will agree with y<sup>e</sup> Church in Calling the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> William Osgood to the work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry in our Town

Dat. Topsfield November 10: 1725

Jacob Dorman Constable

John Hovey  
in the name & by order  
of the rest of y<sup>e</sup> Select-  
men

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> 29 Day of November 1725

Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

The Town unanimously Agreed to give the reverend M<sup>r</sup> William Osgood a Call to Settle with us in the Ministry

The free holders and other inhabitation of this Town Quallified According to Law for voting are to take notice to meet here at the Meeting house in Topsfield on fryday the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Decem: next After the Date hereof at 12 of the Clock in s<sup>d</sup> day.





1st To Choose a Committe to give M<sup>r</sup> William Osgood a Call to the work of the Ministry in our Town

2ly To Doe any other thing or things Relating to his Settlement with us as the Town shall then think best

3ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will grant the petition of some of the inhabitation on the other side of Nickollses Brook to be set of to a new precinct & fourthly to hear the Committes return that were Chosen to Reckon with Madam Capen & to allow bills of Charge

John Hovey by

Dated in Topsfield December the 4: 1725 order of the rest

Jacob Dorman Constable

of the Selectmen  
of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Decem 1725

1 M<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2ly Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Mr Eliezer Lake and Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould are Chosen a Committe to joyn with the Committe wich the Church hath Already Chose to inform the Reverend Mr William Osgood that the town as well as y<sup>e</sup> Church hath unanimously Made Choice of himself to be our Minister and to Settle with us in the ministry and if said m<sup>r</sup> Osgood is please to accept of the Call: that then the said Committe which the Town has now Chosen are further ordred to discourse with y<sup>e</sup> said M<sup>r</sup> Osgood to see upon what Terms he shall see Cause to Settle with us in the work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry and y<sup>e</sup> said Committe to return Mr Osgoods answer to y<sup>e</sup> Town as soon as may be Conveniently  
voted

3ly The Town agreed to give to y<sup>e</sup> reverend Mr William Osgood Eighty pounds by the year sallary for his incouragement to settle with us in the Work of Ministry  
voted

4ly The Town allowed to M<sup>r</sup><sup>s</sup> Capen Twenty six pound thirteen shillings and for pence for the reverend M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Capens service in y<sup>e</sup> ministry from the first of March 1724-5 till y<sup>e</sup> Last of June following  
voted 26 13 4

5 The Town allowed one shilling to Clerk Elisha Perkins for timber to mend highways

The free holders and other inhabitants of this Town Quallified according to Law for Voting are to take notice to meet





here at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on fryday next after the Date hereof at 12 of the Clock on said day

1ly By Vertue of a Warrant to y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen y<sup>e</sup> freeholders are to make Choice of a Person to be Register of Deeds

2ly For the freeholders & other inhabitants to hear mr Will<sup>m</sup> Osgoods answer to the Committe that were Chosen to give him a Call to the work of the Ministry in our Town and to act upon it as the Town shall then think best in order to his Settlement with us in said work John Hovey by order

Dated December 18 1725 of y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen of  
Jacob Dorman Constable Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> day of Decm<sup>r</sup> 1725

1 Dea: Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator of this meeting voted

2ly The freeholders brought in their votes for a Register of Deeds

3ly: The Town having heard the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Osgoods Answer to the Town Respecting his Call to y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry in this Town: the Town Dose Now agree to give to the Reverend Mr William Osgood one hundred pound per Annum in Currant Passable Money: or in Bills of Publick Credit for his Sallary: and also y<sup>e</sup> Improvement of the Parsonage Land; during the Term of his ministry amongst us

4ly The Town agreed to give two hundred pounds to R<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Osgood towards his Settlement Amoungst us in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry voted

5ly Whereas M<sup>r</sup> Osgood has but one Sabbath more to Preach with us according to former agreement; therefore the Town Do now Desire him to Preach with us one month Longer then s<sup>d</sup> agreement: and agree to give him for sd month According as the former Committe Agreed with him: viz Thirty five shillings per week voted

6ly The Town agreed to adjourn this meeting unto the first Tuseday of Jan<sup>y</sup> next voted

the Moderator adjourned this present meeting Accordingly

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield begun & held on y<sup>e</sup> 24 Day of December 1725 and adjourned unto y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Day





of Jan: 1725-6 at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon: and then met and whereas the Town did agree at said meeting on y<sup>e</sup> 24 of December: to give two hundred pounds to the reverend M<sup>r</sup> William Osgood towards his settlement with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry the Town do now agree to pay one hundred pound of said money within this year that is now begun and y<sup>e</sup> other hundred pound of s<sup>d</sup> money to be paid the next year following voted

And also whereas the Town Did agree to give to the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> William Osgood one hundred pounds per annum for his sallary: the Town Do now agree to pay in unto the s<sup>d</sup> Mr Osgood the one half of his yearly sallary at Every half years End voted

the year to begin at y<sup>e</sup> first of March next Ensuing untill which time Mr Osgood doth now Consent to Preach with & amoungst us as heretofore

Topsfield ffeb<sup>y</sup> 11: 1725-6

The freeholders & other Inhabitation of this Town: Qualified according to Law for voting: are to take Notice to meet here at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house on Tuseday the first of March Next after the Date hereof at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning to Choose Town Officers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing To see if the Town will agree upon sum other method of fenceing in y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage Land then what hath already been Agreed upon: To Choose Jurymen for Ipswich Court and do any other thing or things as the Town shall then see best

Jacob Dorman Constable	John Howlet
A True Copy of the notification Attest	Jacob Estey
Jacob Peabody Town Clerk	William Porter
	John Hovey Select-
	men of Topsfield

At A Lawfull & Annual Town meeting in Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> 1: of March 1725-6

1ly Mr Ivory Hovey is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2ly Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3ly Corp<sup>n</sup> Tobijah Perkins & Eben<sup>r</sup> Nickols are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted





Corp<sup>l</sup> Perkins having agreed with John Willdes to serve as Constable in his room the Town accepted thereof by a vote

4ly En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Serg<sup>t</sup> Thomas Robinson M<sup>r</sup> Simon Bradstreet & Jacob Peabody are Selectmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5ly Edmond Town Nathan Byxbe & Eliezer Lake are Chosen Tything men for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6ly En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

7ly M<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill Corp<sup>l</sup> Joseph Town Jonathan Willds & Benjamin Knight are Chosen Surveyers of highways for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

8ly Serg<sup>t</sup> Joshua Town & David Balch Are Chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

9ly Serg<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould & Joseph Robinson are Chosen Hogreeves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

10ly William Town & Joshua Town are Chosen field Drivers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

11ly M<sup>r</sup> Simon Bradstreet is Chosen School master for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

12ly Serg<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould is Chosen grand jury man for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

Serg<sup>t</sup> Ivory Hovey & David Balch are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at y<sup>e</sup> next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

13ly M<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

14ly Whereas the Town at a Leagal Town meeting on y<sup>e</sup> first day of Novemb<sup>r</sup> 1725 Did agree to fence in all y<sup>e</sup> parsonage Land in Topsfield by y<sup>e</sup> first day of June next following with a good sufficient fence: & the Town having Considered the Matter do now Agree to fence in all y<sup>e</sup> parsonage Land with a good Legall stone wall voted

15ly The Town having heard y<sup>e</sup> Reverend M<sup>r</sup> William Osgoods Answer to the Church and Parrish Relating to his settling with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of the Ministry: accepts thereof and ordered that it should be Entred in y<sup>e</sup> Town book

All the Officers Chosen by y<sup>e</sup> Town on s<sup>d</sup> first of March 1825-6 whom the Law Requires to be sworn viz. Town Clerk, Constables, Tything men Surveyers of highway, fence view-





ers, Hogreeves, field drivers & Town Treasurer were all of them sworn. Each man to his Respective office on y<sup>e</sup> said first & fourth Days of March 1725-6 before y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen

The Sealler of Leather Excepted: and Serg<sup>t</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Robinson & Sam<sup>l</sup> Curtis being Chosen field drivers by y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of Stickey Meadow Commonfields were sworn to y<sup>e</sup> faithfull Discharge of s<sup>d</sup> office: before y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen on sd 1: of March

At the above sd Town meeting on y<sup>e</sup> 1: of march: 1725-6 the Town gave Liberty for Clerk Elisha Perkins to set up a stable at y<sup>e</sup> East End of y<sup>e</sup> stable by M<sup>r</sup> Capens fence

To the Church and Parish of the Town of Topsfield  
Gentlemen

I have taken into serious Consideratian the Invitation which you made me to settle with you in y<sup>e</sup> Work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry: and likewise the Sallary which by vote you have allowed me for my subsistance in that work These are therefore to Inform you, That I readily take up with what you have already done on that account.—and I hereby do Consent to settle with you in y<sup>e</sup> work of the ministry as Long as God shall enable me thereto

These from Him who is ready to  
Serve you in the Gospel of our  
Glorious Redemer

This is a true Copy of Mr Osgoods      William Osgood  
Answer to the Church and  
Parish attest Jacob Peabody Town Cle

En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman being Chosen Clerk for & by y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of Stickey Medow Com: on field: was sworn to y<sup>e</sup> faithfull Discharge of s<sup>d</sup> Office before y<sup>e</sup> selectmen of Topsfield March 15 1725-6

Boston June 7<sup>th</sup> 1722

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Joseph Robinson Constable of Topsfield P M<sup>r</sup>  
Daniel Clark Twenty one pound four shillings & Ten pence  
in full for My ffather  
21:4:10  
Jer Allen Treasurer  
P Ja<sup>s</sup> Allen

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Joseph Robinson as Constable of Topsfield for  
y<sup>e</sup> year 1721 the full of what was Committed to him to Colect



for my use for s<sup>d</sup> year I say Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> full of it per me Joseph Capen

Topsfield March: 10: 1723-4

The two Receipts above Entred are True Copies attest Jacob Peabody T C

The ffreeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Legall Quallified for voting are to take Notice to meet at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Town on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> Twenty second Day of this instant March at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon

1 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Give Liberty for swine to go at Large

2 To agree upon some Method to pay in the Towns Loan Money

3 To Choose Jurymen for Ipswich Court

4 To Choose a Committe to Seat People in y<sup>e</sup> meeting house

Amos Dorman

Simon Bradstreet Select

Joseph Gould men

Thomas Robinson of

Jacob Peabody Topst<sup>d</sup>

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1725-6

John Willdes Constable for Topsfield

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification

attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>: 1725-6

1 En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 The Town gave Liberty for swine to go at Large according as y<sup>e</sup> Law gives Liberty voted

3 Zacheus Gould is Chosen grand Jury man for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

& Ivory Hovey & David Balch are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

4 The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> Trustees, Namely, Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould, Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett & M<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter; Shall Call in





one fifth part of y<sup>e</sup> Principal of the Towns Loan money: of such person or persons to whom said money was Lett out where said money may be most Conveniently be had according to their sound judgment & Discretion: & pay in y<sup>e</sup> same unto y<sup>e</sup> Province Treasurer by y<sup>e</sup> first day of June next according to y<sup>e</sup> General Court Act made & passed in November 1725 voted

5 William Porter, Thomas Gould, William Town, Quarter<sup>m</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman: and Jacob Estey; are Chosen a Committee to Seat People in the meeting house voted

Pursuant to a Warrant to me Directed from under y<sup>e</sup> hands of y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen of Topsfield by vertue of sd warrant The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified for voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs are to take Notice to meet at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday the Tenth of this Instant May at Tenn of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> forenoon

first To Choose a Representative to serve at y<sup>e</sup> Great and General Court

2ly To agree upon a time when to pay in Mr Osgoods Sallary

3 To Choose a Committee to make up y<sup>e</sup> wall about y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage where any Person or Persons shall Refuse or Neglect to make up his or their part of sd wall

4 To see if Town will agree to turn y<sup>e</sup> way that Leads through Dea<sup>n</sup> Redingtons Land on y<sup>e</sup> south side of River

5 To Receive the Committees Return of apportioning the fence about y<sup>e</sup> parsonage

6 to Choose Jury men for Ipswich Court

7 To Choose men to Answer y<sup>e</sup> Petition of y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of Topsfield On y<sup>e</sup> south side of Nickolses brook Relating to their being set of to a Precinct

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 6: 1726

John Willdes Constable for Topsfield

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 10: 1726

1 Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

John Wildes Constable for Topsfield Jacob Peabody





2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Chosen to Represent y<sup>e</sup> Town at y<sup>e</sup> general Court for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 The Town accepted of y<sup>e</sup> Committees return of setting out to Each free householder Their Respective proportion to fence about y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage Land in Topsfield voted

Mr Ivory hovey Enters his Contrary Decent to y<sup>e</sup> Last vote above Entered

4 Where as Mr Osgood did Consent to begin his year at y<sup>e</sup> first of march 1725-6 and y<sup>e</sup> Town finding it inconvenient on several Accounts Therefore the Town and Mr Osgood do now Agree to begin y<sup>e</sup> year of his service in y<sup>e</sup> ministry on y<sup>e</sup> first Day of July next voted

5 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen & appointed to appear at y<sup>e</sup> Generall Court in behalf of y<sup>e</sup> Town to give in the reason why y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> south side of Nickol-ses brook (so called) should not be sett of to another Parish or Precinct voted

6 The Town Agreed that y<sup>e</sup> Present Selectmen should draw up the Reasons why y<sup>e</sup> Prayer of y<sup>e</sup> Petition of y<sup>e</sup> above said Inhabitants should not be granted voted

At a Legall Town meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1726

1st Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen moderator for this meeting voted

2ly The Town did manifest by a vote that they are willing that Mr Osgood should Continue with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry voted

The freehol[d]ers & other Inhabitants of Topsfield such as are Quallified as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs for voting are to take Notice to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield on ffryday y<sup>e</sup> Tenth Day of June next at two of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in sd Day

first to agree upon some method to find out y<sup>e</sup> truth of those Scandalous reports Concerning Mr Osgood

2 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will agree to set of y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of Topsfield on the south westerly side of Nickolses brook to joyn with other inhabitants to make a Township and to do any other thing or things that the Town shall then think needfull & proper to be done

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1726

John Wildes Constable for Topsfield

Thomas Robinson

Simon Bradstreet

Jacob Peabody





this is a True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield June y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1726  
1 Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

voted

2ly The Town agreed to Choose a Committe to joyn with  
y<sup>e</sup> Committe which y<sup>e</sup> Church hath Already Chosen to finde  
out y<sup>e</sup> truth of those Scandalous Reports Concerning Mr  
Osgood

voted

3 Quarter<sup>mtr</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman, M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Gould, & Mr  
Benjamin Town, are Chosen a Committe for s<sup>d</sup> Service

voted

4 And when s<sup>d</sup> Committe have made search into & found  
out what they can of y<sup>e</sup> truth of those Scandalous reports  
that are concerning Mr Osgood sd Committe are to inform  
y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen thereof in order for y<sup>e</sup> Towns being Called to-  
gether and then y<sup>e</sup> said Committe to make report to y<sup>e</sup> Town  
of what they have found out Relating to s<sup>d</sup> Scandalous Re-  
ports in order for y<sup>e</sup> further proseedng in that matter

voted

5 Where as Thomas Caves Edward Putnam & Joseph  
Knight & five other the Inhabitants of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> south  
side of Nickolses brook have Petition<sup>d</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> Town of Tops-  
field At a Legall Town meeting June y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1726 for all y<sup>e</sup>  
Lands belonging to y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> southerly or  
westerly side of Nickolses brook with all y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants now  
Dwelling on s<sup>d</sup> Lands to Joyn with some of y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of  
Salem Andover & Boxford to make a Township and also to  
sett to s<sup>d</sup> Petitioners their proportion of y<sup>e</sup> Towns parsonage  
& all other undivided Lands in y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield The  
Town having Considered of y<sup>e</sup> sd Petition have Agreed that  
it should be dsmist

voted

To M<sup>r</sup> John Willdes Constable of Topsfield greeting

In his Majesties Name you are hereby Required forthwith  
to warn the freeholders & other Inhabitants Quallified as y<sup>e</sup>  
Law Directs for voting on y<sup>e</sup> north side of y<sup>e</sup> River to meet  
at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield, on y<sup>e</sup> seventeenth day of  
this Instant June, at three of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> after noon first  
to Receive y<sup>e</sup> Committies return that were Chosen to find out  
y<sup>e</sup> truth of Those Scandalous Reports Concerning mr Osgood





2ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will give Mr Osgood a Dismission from y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry in this Town

3 To agree upon some method to pay to Mr Osgood what is due to him from y<sup>e</sup> Town for his work in the ministry in this town

Amos Dorman  
Thomas Robinson  
Jacob Peabody

Selectmen  
of Topsfield

Dat Topsfield June y<sup>e</sup> 16:1726

Topsfield June 17:1726 By vertue of this warrant I have warned y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> north side of y<sup>e</sup> river according to time & Place within mentioned John Willdes Constable for Topsfield

A true copy of warrant & return attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield June y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1726  
1 Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for s<sup>d</sup> meeting  
voted

To the Town of Topsfield Now Assembled & met. Whereas we the Subscribers were Chosen a Committe by y<sup>e</sup> Church & Town to find out y<sup>e</sup> truth of those Scandalous Reports Concerning Mr Osgood; Accordingly we have made Dilligent search and have gotten y<sup>e</sup> best Information we could and we find nothing worthy of Raising such scandalous Reports Concerning M<sup>r</sup> Osgood and by the best Information that we could find we do Judge that some of those Reports were Raised by and we went to house with mr Osgood to see them face to face and to hear what they then would accuse s<sup>d</sup> Osgood with and to give them a Sivel Discourse but y<sup>e</sup> Refused to make any Discourse with Mr Osgood, or with us: but said that they had Nothing to say to us and asked us what power we had to ask them Concerning such things and said that knew nothing about those stories Concerning Mr Osgood: Dat. Topsfield June 17:1726

Daniel Clark  
Jacob Towne  
Elisha Perkins  
Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman  
Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

This is a True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Return  
Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler





2 The above written Return being twice Thomas Gould  
Publicly read y<sup>e</sup> Town Accepted thereof voted

3 The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> present Selectmen shall take  
Care to pay M<sup>r</sup> Osgood with y<sup>e</sup> Towns money what shall be  
Due to him from y<sup>e</sup> Town when this month is out for his  
work in y<sup>e</sup> ministry Amongst us voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield such as  
are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting are hereby Noti-  
fied to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield on fryday the  
Ninth of this Instant September at Twelve of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on sd  
day first to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will proceed in order to ordain Mr  
Osgood

2 To Allow bills of Charge. 3ly to Choose overseers for  
y<sup>e</sup> poor

4 To Choose Jurymen for Newbery Court

	Amos Dorman	Select-
Dat <sup>d</sup> Topsfield Sep <sup>t</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1726	Joseph Gould	men
John Willdes Constable for	Thomas Robinson	of
Topsfield	Simon Bradstreet	Tops-
	Jacob Peabody	field

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>: 1726

1 Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 The Town have manifested by a vote that they were  
willing to prosceed in order to ordain the Reverend Mr Will-  
iam Osgood voted

3 The Town allowed to Mr Eliezer Lake Eleven shillings  
& four pence it being what Isaac Powers was Rated in Tops-  
field in 1724 which s<sup>d</sup> Lake being Constable could not git  
voted 11-4

4 The Town Allowed to Joseph How one pound one shill-  
ing for sweeping the meeting house from y<sup>e</sup> Twenty fift day of  
October 1725 till y<sup>e</sup> twenty fift Day of October 1726

voted 1-1-0

5 The Town Allowed Eight pound to John Nickols & John  
Burton for Rebuilding this Towns part of y<sup>e</sup> bridge which is  
over y<sup>e</sup> river near to Edward Putnams house sd bridge being  
built this year voted 8 0 0





6 The Town allowed five shillings to John Wildes for warning y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> North Side of River to a Town meeting voted 0 5 0

7 The Town allowed Twenty shillings to Mr Simon Bradstreet for serving Schoolmaster in 1725 voted 1-0-0

8 Jonathan Willdes & Robert Perkins are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Trialls at the next Inferior Court to be holden at Newbery voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of Topsfield such as are Quallified as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs for voting are hereby Notified to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> Twenty third day of November Currant at Ten of the Clock on said day

1 first to Allow bills of Charge

2 To Receive the Committies Return of Seating People in the meeting house

3ly To agree upon a method to Dispose of y<sup>e</sup> intrest of the Towns Loan money

4ly To agree upon a Method to Stir up People to Make up their Respective proportion of fence about y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage Land in Topsfield according as it hath been Laid out

5ly To take Care to procure Plank to Cover y<sup>e</sup> bridge over y<sup>e</sup> River in Topsfield

6ly To see if the town will give Liberty to some of our Neighbours in Ipswich to set up a stable near y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield

7ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will give Liberty to John Clark to Live in y<sup>e</sup> watch house this winter

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield Novem: 17<sup>th</sup> 1726 Joseph Gould Select-  
John Willdes Constable for Thomas Robinson men of  
Topsfield Jacob Peabody Topsfield

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Novem: 23<sup>d</sup> 1726

1 Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2ly The Town allowed Twelve shillings to Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet for serving Representative Thre Days at y<sup>e</sup> general Court in Aprill 1726 voted 0 12 0





3ly The Town Allowed four shillings & six pence to Jacob Averill for slabs to mend y<sup>e</sup> highways this year voted 0 4 6

4ly The Town Allowed two shillings to Jesse Dorman for Timber to mend y<sup>e</sup> falls bridge voted 0 2 0

5ly The Town Allowed Eighteen shillings to Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Dea<sup>n</sup> John howlet & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter for their trouble in taking in y<sup>e</sup> intrest of the Towns Loan money this year  
voted 0 18 0

6ly The Town Allowed one pound four shillings to Eliezer Lake & Jacob Peabody for sitting out to Each man his proportion to fence about y<sup>e</sup> parsonage voted 1-4-0

7ly The Town allowed six shillings to Clerk Elisha Perkins for Timber to mend the bridge near to said Perkinses house this year  
voted 0 6 0

8ly The Town agreed & ordred y<sup>e</sup> Trustees viz Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter to pay in y<sup>e</sup> intrest of the Towns Loan money (that is Due to y<sup>e</sup> Town) to y<sup>e</sup> present selectmen & said selectmen are to Dispose of it to y<sup>e</sup> Towns Use & benefit  
voted

9ly The Town Agreed to have y<sup>e</sup> River bridge Covered with plank y<sup>e</sup> next summer  
voted

10ly The Town granted Liberty to Samuel Potter, Caleb Foster, Abraham How & Others of our Neighbours in Ipswich to sit up a stable on y<sup>e</sup> Plain Northerly of & near y<sup>e</sup> meeting house  
voted

11ly The Town granted Liberty to Clerk Elisha Perkins & Ser Joshua Town to sit up a stable at y<sup>e</sup> Southerly End of Cap<sup>t</sup> Goulds stable near y<sup>e</sup> meeting house  
voted

Boston May 27: 1726

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould one of y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield the sum of Fifty one pounds being the first fift part of their proportion of y<sup>e</sup> £ 50000

P Jer: Allen Treasurer  
This is a True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Jan<sup>y</sup> 31: 1726-7

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 The Town allowed Ten shillings to Sam<sup>l</sup> Howlet for victualing the widow Mary Averill & her Nurse Eight Days y<sup>e</sup> summer past  
voted 0 10 0





3 The Town allowed four shillings to Hannah Averill for Nursing or tending the sd widow Mary Averill Eight Days y<sup>e</sup> summer past voted 0 4 0

4 The Town Allowed one pound Ten shillings to Jonathan Willdes for keeping the widow Mary Averill seventeen Days in August Last past voted 1 10 0

5 The Town Allowed three pound Ten shillings to y<sup>e</sup> widow Phoebe Goodhall for keeping the widow Mary Averill seven weeks next after she came from Jonathan Willdes voted 3 10 0

6 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> widow Anne Averill one pound for keeping the widow Mary Averill five weeks next to y<sup>e</sup> Wido: Goodhall voted 1 0 0

7 The Town Allowed one pound Ten shillings to y<sup>e</sup> widow Luce Town for keeping the widow Mary Averill about Ten weeks next after Anne Averill voted 1 10 0

8 The Town Allows twelve shillings to Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter for his trouble in setting out to Each man his proportion to fence about y<sup>e</sup> parsonage voted 0 12 0

9 The Town Allowed five shillings to M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clark for a Glasser & his horse two Days when he Mended y<sup>e</sup> meeting house Glass in 1724 voted 0 5 0

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Jacob Dorman Constable of Topsfield the sum of four pounds Nineteen shillings & two pence in full for y<sup>e</sup> County Rate for sd Town

March: 5: 1725

P John Appleton County Treas:

This is A True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting are hereby Notified to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> seventh day of March next after the date hereof at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning on sd day

1 To Choose Town Officers such as the Law Requires or Allows to be Chosen at such meeting

2 To Choose a man To take Care of and Amend any breach that is or may be in y<sup>e</sup> meeting house

3 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will see Cause to turn y<sup>e</sup> way that Goes through Sam<sup>l</sup> Howlets pasture

4 To Choose a County Treasurer





Dat: Topsfield feeb: 14 <sup>th</sup> 1726-7	Thomas Robinson	Select- men of Topsfield
John Willdes Constable of	Joseph Gould	
Topsfield	Simon Bradstreet	
	Jacob Peabody	

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1726-7

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meet-  
ing voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year  
Ensuing voted

4 John Willds & David Cummings are Chosen Constables  
for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5 Quartermaster Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman Corp<sup>l</sup> Jacob Towne Benja<sup>a</sup>  
Towne Thomas Gould and William Redington are Chosen  
Selectmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 Samuel Smith Corp<sup>l</sup> Tobijah Perkins and Richard Towne  
are Chosen Tything men for the year Ensuing voted

7 En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup>  
year Ensuing voted

8 Mr Daniel Clark Job Averill Thomas Dwinel Jonathan  
Perkins & Isaac Peabody are Chosen Surveyers of highways  
for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

9 Jacob Estey & John Towne are Chosen fence viewers for  
y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

10 Jacob Redington & Daniel Gould are Chosen Hog-  
reeves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

11 Mr William Porter is Chosen Schoolmaster for y<sup>e</sup> year  
Ensuing voted

12 Mr Daniel Clark is Chosen to take care and Amend  
any breach that is or may be in Meeting house for y<sup>e</sup> year  
Ensuing voted

13 Mr Daniel Clark Mr Thomas Gould & Mr Jacob Estey  
are Chosen to view the way that Leads through Samuel  
Howlets Pasture to see if sd way may turned with Conven-  
iency. And to make Report to y<sup>e</sup> Town what their Opinion  
Concerning it at y<sup>e</sup> next Town Meeting voted





14 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill is Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jury & Doc<sup>t</sup> Michael Dwinel & — are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at y<sup>e</sup> Inferiuer Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

15 Thomas Robinson & Daniel Towne are chosen field Drivers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

The Several Officers Chosen at y<sup>e</sup> above s<sup>d</sup> Town Meeting of whom an oath is by Law Required were all sworn to y<sup>e</sup> faithful discharge of Their Respective Offices on y<sup>e</sup> seventh and on y<sup>e</sup> Tenth days of March 1726-7 Excepting Jacob Towne Entred by order of the Selectmen: Jacob Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified according as the Law Directs for voting: are hereby Warned & Notified to meet at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday the Twenty Eighth Day of March Currant at one of the Clock in the Afternoon on said Day

1 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Concur with the Church in what they have done in order to ordain Mr Will<sup>m</sup> Osgood

2 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Choose Two men to Joyn with y<sup>e</sup> Churches Committy that are to Discourse [with] the Ministers y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Church have Chosen to Ordain Mr Will<sup>m</sup> Osgood

3 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Answer the Petition of some of the Inhabitants on the south side of Nickoles Brook to abate their Rates towards the Minister in Topsfield

4 To see what they will do in order to fence y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage Land in Topsfield

5 To see if the Town Will Give Leave for swine to go at Large

6 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will allow y<sup>e</sup> Widow Mary Averills Petition

7 To Choose Overseers of the Poor

Date<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 23:1726-7 Thomas Gould

John Willdes Constable for Topsfield Nathaniel Bordman

This is A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification William Redington

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 28:1727

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted





2 Whereas y<sup>e</sup> Church have agreed to have y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr William Osgood ordained on the second Wednesday in June next y<sup>e</sup> Town do now Readily Concur therewith voted

3 The Town agreed that swine should go at Large this year according as y<sup>e</sup> Law Gives Liberty voted

4 The Town Agreed to have y<sup>e</sup> watch house repaired & kept in repair voted

5 The Town have Chosen Mr John Perkins to Repair sd watch house voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitation of the Town of Topsfield Duly Quallified by Law for voting: are hereby Warned & Notified to Assemble and Meet together on Tuseday the Ninth Currant. at two of the Clock in the After Noon; at the meeting house in Topsfield.

1ly To Choose a Representative to serve at y<sup>e</sup> General Court for y<sup>e</sup> year Insuing

2ly To Choose Jury men for Ipswich Court

3ly To see if the Town will Concur with what the Church shall present to them then, in Order to the ordination of Mr Osgood

4ly To accept of y<sup>e</sup> Committies Return that was Chosen to apportion the fence Round the parsonage Land in Topsfield: to wit: Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter and others and to see what they will do in Order to make up their fence

5ly To Allow bills of Charge

6ly To Choose a Committe to view the highway that goeth through Jacob Redingtons Land in order to turn it

Dated Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1727 Thomas Gould

John Willdes Constable for Topsfield Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman

This is True Copy of the Notification William Redington

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> Ninth: 1727

1ly Mr Thomas Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2ly Quarter<sup>m:tr</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman is Chosen to serve for and Represent the Town At the Generall Court the year Insuing voted





3ly The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> Trustees Namely Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter shall Call in one fifth part of the Towns Loan money of such Person or Persons to whom sd money was Let out where sd money may most Convenient be had According to their sound Judgement & Discreeston & pay in y<sup>e</sup> same to y<sup>e</sup> province Treasurer by y<sup>e</sup> first day of June next According to an Act Made And passed at the General Court in November 1725

voted

4ly Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a Committe to View the highway that Leads through Jacob Redingtons Land in order to turn it and to make return to y<sup>e</sup> Town at y<sup>e</sup> next Town Meeting: what their minds are Concerning the turning of s<sup>d</sup> way

voted

Aprill: 24<sup>th</sup> 1727

We Jacob Towne Jacob Robinson & Benjamin Towne being appointed and impowered to Perambulate & Renew the bounds between the Townes of Salem and Topsfield accordingly we met with John Preston and Cornelius Tarbell they being appointed by the Selectmen of Salem for said service and have Renewed the bounds as they formerly stand Entred in y<sup>e</sup> Towns Records

This is a True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Return of  
Perambulation with Salem.

John Preston

Cornelius Tarbell

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Topsfield To John Willdes Constable you are hereby Required in his Majisties Name to warn and give Notice unto the Inhabitance of this Town on y<sup>e</sup> North side of the River Duly Quallified by Law for Voting that they meet together on fryday the sixteenth Currant at three of Clock in the after noon at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield in order to Choose one or two men as Attorneys or Agents to Implead the petitioners on the south side of Nickolses Brook in Topsfield which have Petitioned to the Great and General Court to be set off in order for a Township

Dated Topsfield June 13: 1727





Jacob Towne  
 Thomas Gould      Selectmen  
 Benjamin Towne    of Topsfield  
 William Redington

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield June: 16<sup>th</sup> 1727  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mr Thomas Gould is Chosen moderator for this meeting  
 voted

2<sup>ly</sup> Mr Nathaniel Bordman & Mr Daniel Clark are Chosen  
 Attorneys for the Town to Appear at the General Court on  
 y<sup>e</sup> Twentieth Currant to Implead the Inhabitants on the  
 South Side of Nickolses Brook in Topsfield which have Peti-  
 tioned to the General Court to be set of with other Inhabi-  
 tants to make a Township: and the said Attorney are to give  
 in the Reasons to the sd Court why the prayer of said peti-  
 tion should not be Granted and s:d Attorneys are hereby  
 fully impowered to use all Lawfull and proper means to pre-  
 vent the s<sup>d</sup> Petitions being Granted  
 voted

Topsfield To David Commings Constable of s<sup>d</sup> Town  
 Greeting you are hereby Required in his Majisties name to  
 warn & Notife all the Inhabitants of sd Town on y<sup>e</sup> south  
 side of Ipswich River Duly Quallified for voting in Town  
 Affairs as the Law Directs: to meet together att the meeting  
 in Topsfield on Tuseday the fourth of July next at three of  
 the Clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon on s<sup>d</sup> Day: for to see and Examine,  
 Wherefore y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr Osgood hath not Carried on y<sup>e</sup>  
 work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry Amongst us According to Agreement as  
 in time past: and to take a prudent Care that we may no  
 Longer be distitute of the publick worship of God being Car-  
 ried on Amongst us and if need be to Chuse a Committe for  
 the same service and make timely Return of your so doing

Dated Topsfield June 30<sup>th</sup> 1727  
 Jacob Towne      Selectmen  
 Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne    of Topsf<sup>d</sup>  
 Thomas Gould

At A Leagall Town Meeting in Topsfield July 4<sup>th</sup> 1727  
 1 Mr Zacheus Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meet-  
 ing  
 voted  
 2 Mr Thomas Gould & Mr Joseph Towne are Chosen a  
 Com:itte to Suply the Pulpit with a minister to despence the  
 word of God to us y<sup>e</sup> three next Sabbaths  
 voted





3 The Town agreed to send to five ministers viz: the Reverend Mr ffish m<sup>r</sup> Prescot & Mr Clark all of Salem: Mr Putnam of Reading & Mr Barnard of Andover and desire them to meet together in Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> nineteenth of this Instant July and to Give us their advice in what may be proper for us to do under our present scircumstances inasmuch as y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr William Osgood. Whom the Town & Church had agreed with to be our settled minister hath Left us voted

Mr Thomas Gould & Mr Joseph Towne are Chosen to Desire y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> ministers to meet together for y<sup>e</sup> End afore<sup>sd</sup> and s<sup>d</sup> Gould & Towne are to take Care that suteable provision be made for sd ministers where they shall think it most Convenient in Topsfield voted

The free Holders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting are Notified and warned to Assemble and Meet together at the Meeting House in Topsfield on wednesday the Nineteenth Currant at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock before noon on said day

1 To Choose A Committe to Inform the Reverend Ministers that the Town And Church hath made Choice of: And to Lay before Them y<sup>e</sup> Difficult Circumstances that We the Town & Church Labour under in Respect of the Reverend Mr William Osgood

2 If any Person In sd Town are Agrieved they are Desired to Make their personal appearance at time & place and make known their greivence In order. In order to Bar Mr Osgoods settling amongst us in the Ministry

Dated Topsfield July the 13<sup>th</sup>: 1727

Thomas Gould  
Jacob Towne

This is a True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> notification  
Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Benjamin Towne  
Selectmen  
of Topsf<sup>d</sup>

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield Jly y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1727

1 Mr Jacob Towne is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted

2 Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Redington Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman Mr Zacheus Gould Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne and Mr John Prichitt are Chosen a Committe to Inform the Reverend Ministers that that y<sup>e</sup> Town and Church have made Choice of: And to Lay before them





the Difficult Circumstances the Town & Church Labour under in Respect of y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr William Osgood voted

3 The Town agreed to send to such of sd Reverend Elders as are now in Town and Desire them to Come up to y<sup>e</sup> meeting house

4 The Town agreed to Leave the whole of the present Concern Refering to Mr William Osgood and the Town: To the Reverend Elders that the Church & Town hath sent for to advize us in that afair: voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such As are Quallified for Voting as the Law Directs are hereby Notified to meet At the Meeting house on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> fifteenth Day of August Currant at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on said day after noon

1 To Choose a Committe to make up Accompts with Mr William Osgood

2 To Choose a Com<sup>tee</sup> to supply y<sup>e</sup> Pulpit

3 To see what Method the Town will take to Support the Pulpit: Whether by Contribution or other ways.

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield august y<sup>e</sup> 12: 1727

Thomas Gould

John Willdes Constable for Topsfield

Jacob Towne

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Will<sup>m</sup> Redington

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Leagall Town meeting in Topsfield August y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1727

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Redington is Chosen moderator for this meeting voted

2 The Town Agreed that the present Selectmen or any of them shall make up And Settle accompts with Mr William Osgood Referring to his service in the work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry in Topsfield voted

3 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill mr Zacheus Gould En<sup>s</sup> Timothy Perkins & Mr Daniel Clark are Chosen a Committe to Agree with three Ministers to Preach to and Amoungst us three Sabbath Days a piece and the time to begin y<sup>e</sup> Last Sabbath in August Currant voted

4 And sd Com<sup>tee</sup> are to take Care to provide Quarters for such ministers as they shall Git to preach: for y<sup>e</sup> time above





5 The Town Agreed to Contribute towards the paying of sd  
Ministers During y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Term

May y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1727

We the Subscribers being appointed by the Selectmen of our Respective Towns viz: Wenham, & Topsfield; to Perambulate on y<sup>e</sup> Line between our sd Towns, have according to Agreement Renewed the heap of stones by the End of Wenham Casway & the Clump of Maples at y<sup>e</sup> Edge of the Meadow so as y<sup>e</sup> Brook Runs to a stake & heap of stones near to Robinsons Island and so on y<sup>e</sup> Line of Pigdins Meadow (so called) to the Island & on y<sup>e</sup> Ditch to the River. as the Line of Townships is stated Witness our hands y<sup>e</sup> Day above<sup>sd</sup>

for Topsfield David Batchelder  
Michael Dwinel Josiah Hairfield for Wenham  
Daniel Clark This is a True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Return  
Robert Perkins Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The free Holders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of  
Topsfield Such as are Quallified as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs for voting  
are hereby Notified and Warned to Assemble and meet to-  
gether at the Meeting house in said Town on Tuseday the  
Nineteenth Currant At Two of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on sd day

1<sup>st</sup> To see if the Town will agree upon a Rule to Raise money To Defray Town Charges

## 2 To Allow Bills of Charge

3 To see if the Town will agree that y<sup>e</sup> advice of the Reverend Ministers Concerning Mr William Osgood shall be Entered in the Town Records: to wit the advice that was Left by y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr fiske and others

#### 4 to Choose Jurymen for Newbery Court

5 to Accept of the Return of the Committe that was Chosen to Turn y<sup>e</sup> way that Layeth through Jacob Redingtons Land.

Jacob Towne

Dated Topsfield September 16<sup>th</sup> 1727 William Redington  
John Willdes Constable for Topsfield Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

### Selectmen of Topsfield





At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Sept<sup>t</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1727

1 Mr Thomas Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted

2 The Town agreed that the Selectmen in apportioning the Town Rate (that shall be needful for y<sup>e</sup> Defraying y<sup>e</sup> town Charges for this year) shall Lay five shillings on Each Ratable pole to Every hundred pounds and so in that proportion for a Greater or Lesser sum  
voted

3 The Town Allowed to Mr Daniel Clark Eighteen shillings for six mens dinners viz y<sup>e</sup> four Reverend Ministers; and two Mr Osgoods. and also thirteen shillings & six pence for other nescesarys for s<sup>d</sup> Gentlemen on y<sup>e</sup> Day that the Ministers Gave their advice to y<sup>e</sup> Town Concerning Mr Osgood  
voted 1-11-0

4 The Town allowed to Joseph how fifteen shillings for sweeping y<sup>e</sup> meeting house from y<sup>e</sup> Twenty first day of October 1726 till sometime in June 1727  
0 15 0

5 The Town Allowed to Mr Simon Bradstreet for serving school-master in 1727  
1 0 0

6 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> widow Anne Averill fourty shillings for keeping and Looking after y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averill five weeks some time y<sup>e</sup> Last spring  
2 0 0

7 The Town allowed to Ephraim Willdes three shillings for Carrying y<sup>e</sup> wido Mary Averill from Jonathan Willdes his house to the widow Phebe Goodhalls in y<sup>e</sup> year 1726  
0 3 0

8 The Town Allowed to John Wildes Eight shillings for warnning Two Town meetings some time in y<sup>e</sup> summer past  
voted 0-8-0

9 Samuel Howlett & Joseph Dorman are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at y<sup>e</sup> Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery  
voted

The freeholders and Other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting are hereby Notified And warned to Assemble and meet together at the meeting house in Topsfield On Tuseday the thirty first Currant at twelve of the Clock on said day

1 To Choose a Representative to serve in a Great and General Court or Assembly Appointed to be holden at the Court House in Boston Upon Wednesday the Twenty second





Day of November next Ensuing the Date hereof

2 To allow Bills of Charge

3 To see if the Town will take further Care that the Parsonage Land May be fenced in

Dated Topsfield October 28<sup>th</sup> 1727

Jacob Towne

David Commings Constable of Topsfield

Thomas Gould

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield October 31<sup>st</sup> 1727

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Quartermaster Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman is Chosen Representative to serve at a General Court or Assembly to be holden at y<sup>e</sup> Town house in Boston On y<sup>e</sup> Twenty second Day of November next Ensuing voted

3 The Town Allowed to Jacob Robinson Jacob Towne & Benjamin Towne seven shillings and six pence for perambulating on y<sup>e</sup> Line between Salem and Topsfield in April 1727 voted 0-7-6

4 The Town Allowed fourteen shillings to Clerk Elisha Perkins for Entertaining Mr White and his horse four Sabbath Days y<sup>e</sup> summer past voted 0 14 0

5 The Town Allowed to Mr Daniel Clark two pound four shillings and six pence for keeping a minister & his horse Eight Sabbath Days voted 2 4 6

6 The Town allowed to Mr Daniel Clark one pound for going to Boston and fagintown four Day to prevent sd fagingtown being set off as a township voted 1 0 0

7 The Town allowed to Thomas Gould Joseph Towne one pound four shillings for going to Desire the Reverend Ministers to meet together in Topsfield to Give their advice to the Town and Church Concerning Mr William Osgood voted 1 4 0

8 The Town Allowed to Thomas Gould five shillings for Perambulating with Ipswich Men in 1724 & with Boxford in 1727 voted 0 5 0

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified for Voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs are hereby Notified and warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble and Meet together





at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> seventeenth Currant  
at one of the Clock after noon on sd Day

First To see what Method the Town will take to Supply  
y<sup>e</sup> Pulpit

2 To see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will do in order to Clear with Mr  
William Osgood

3 To Allow bills of Charge

4 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Abate the Inhabitants on y<sup>e</sup> south  
side of Nickolls Brook to the Ministers Rate

5 To see if the Town will Joyn with y<sup>e</sup> Non Petitioners in  
Topsfield to try to Prevent their being set off from us

Jacob Towne

Dat<sup>d</sup> November y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1727

Thomas Gould

John Willdes Constable of Topsfield

William Redington

Paul Averill

Benjamin Towne

Thomas Robinson

Selectmen of Topsfield

Job Averill

John Commings

Daniel Towne

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield November 17<sup>th</sup>  
1727

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this  
Meeting voted

2 The Town agreed to make Choice of one out of the  
three Ministers that have Lastly Preacht with us (viz: Mr  
ffitz Gerald Mr Tappan & Mr Bradstreet) to Preach to &  
among us some time longer upon probation voted

3 The Town having brought in their votes for one of said  
Ministers it appeared that Mr Benjamin Bradstreet had the  
Major part of y<sup>e</sup> votes

4 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter & Mr Elisha Per-  
kins are Chosen a Committe to Inform the Reverend Ben-  
jamin Bradstreet that the Town hath made Choice of himself  
to preach to and Amongst us two months Longer: and also  
the said Committe are to Agree with y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Bradstreet  
for s<sup>d</sup> service voted

5 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Mr Thomas Gould & Mr Benjamin  
Towne are Chosen a Committe to Agree with Mr William  
Osgood Concerning y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage in Topsfield and also to





git an aquitance from s<sup>d</sup> Osgood to Clear the Town from all Covenants and agreements that are between said Mr Osgood & y<sup>e</sup> Church & Town of Topsfield voted

6 The Town allowed to Samuel Smith two shillings for Timber to mend the Bridge near the Meeting house voted

To David Commings Constable of Topsfield Greeting &c You are Hereby Required in his Majisties name to Notifie and warn the Inhabitance of Topsfield one South Side of y<sup>e</sup> River: such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law Directs: to assemble and Meet together at the meeting house in sd Topsfield On Wednesday the Twenty second Currant at one of the Clock after noon on sd: first To see if the Town will agree to Give Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Bradstreet A Call to y<sup>e</sup> Ministry amongst us: or to seek Some other way to suply Pulpit 2ly: To Allow bills of Charge And make Return of your so doing at time and place as you will answer y<sup>e</sup> Contrary at y<sup>e</sup> Perrill of the Law

Jacob Towne

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield November y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1727 Thomas Gould

William Redington

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield Novem<sup>r</sup> 22: 1727

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Whereas the Church hath agreed to give the Reverend Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Bradstreet A Call to the work of the Ministry in Topsfield The Town Readily Concurs therewith voted

3 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen to Joyn with y<sup>e</sup> Committe y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Church hath already Chosen to give the Reverend Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Bradstreet a Call to y<sup>e</sup> work of the Ministry in Topsfield  
voted

4 The Town Agreed that in Case Mr Bradstreet is unable at present or if he doth not incline to preach amonge us any more then Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett Mr Elisha Perkins & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter are impowred to provide some other minister to preach with us the two next Sabbaths  
voted

5 The Town allowed to John Wilds Constable fifteen shillings & four pence it being an abatement of Nathan Hoods head money to y<sup>e</sup> province & ministers Rates in y<sup>e</sup> year 1726 he being out of Town before y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> rates were made  
voted





The Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law directs are Notified and warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble and meet together at the meeting house in Topsfield on Monday y<sup>e</sup> fourth Day of December Currant at one of the Clock in the afternoon on s<sup>d</sup> Day

first To see what method the Town will take to Supply the Pulpit Whether By sending a Com<sup>tee</sup> to any Perticular gentleman or to Leave it to a Committe to gitt such an one as they may think fitt for s<sup>d</sup> service

2ly To Allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> first 1727 Jacob Towne

John Willdes Constable for Topsfield Thomas Gould

Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town meeting in Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> 4:  
1727

first Mr Nathaniel Porter is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 Whereas The Church have Agreed to Give Mr Bezaleel Tappan a Call to settle with us in y<sup>e</sup> Ministry in Topsfield; the Town Doth now Concur therewith voted

Notwithstanding y<sup>e</sup> Last vote the Town for some Reasons Did Decline sending a Committe to the sd Mr Tappan

3 Mr Joseph Towne Mr Thomas Gould & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a Committe To procure a Minister or Ministers to Dispencc the word of God to & amongst us in Topsfield the four next Sabbaths: And s<sup>d</sup> Committe are to agree with such minister Or ministers as they shall git for said service voted

The free holders and Other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as Are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting Are Hereby Notified and warned to Assemble and meet together at the Meeting House in Topsfield On Tuseday the second Day of January Next at Twelve of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on said day

1 To see what Method the Town will take for y<sup>e</sup> further supplying of the pulpit in Topsfield

2 To see how the Town will Support the Ministry

3 To see if the Town will give Mr Jacob Eliot an Invita-





tion to Preach to & amongst us in Topsfield sometime Longer in Order to his settlement with us in the Ministry

4 To see How much money [y<sup>e</sup> Towne] will order to be Raised to Defray Town Charges

5 To see What y<sup>e</sup> Town will do with y<sup>e</sup> intrest of the Loan Money

6 To Allow Bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> 28: 1727

John Willdes Constable for Topsfield

Jacob Towne

Thomas Gould

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield Jan<sup>ry</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1727-8

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting

voted

2 The Town agreed to give Mr Jacob Eliot an Invitation to Preach to and amongst us in Topsfield sometime Longer in Order to his Settlement with us in y<sup>e</sup> ministry

voted

3 Mr Thomas Gould Mr Joseph Towne & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a Committe to Discourse with s<sup>d</sup> Mr Eliot to see if he will see Cause to preach sometime Longer amongst us in Answer to the above written vote

voted

4 The Town Agreed that y<sup>e</sup> present Selectmen shall Raise or Levie a Tax of one hundred & Thirty pounds to Defray Town Charges

voted

5 The Town agreed that the Town Treasurer shall Receive y<sup>e</sup> Intrest of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Loan Money (for y<sup>e</sup> year past) of the other Trustees viz Cap<sup>t</sup> Gould & Dea<sup>n</sup> Howlett for y<sup>e</sup> towns use

voted

6 The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> Committee viz Thomas Gould Joseph Towne and Jacob Peabody shall have power to Draw Money out of y<sup>e</sup> town Treasury to pay Mr Eliot for his service in y<sup>e</sup> Ministry as Long as he shall Preach to & amongst us in Topsfield upon y<sup>e</sup> above written vote at Thirty shillings per day

voted

7 The Town Allowed to David Commings Constable Eleven shillings for warning three Town meetings in y<sup>e</sup> summer past

voted O-11-0





8 The Town Allowed to John Willdes Constable four shillings for warning a town meeting in November Last past

voted 0-4-0

9 The Town Allowed to Mr Elisha Perkins Ten shillings for Entertaining Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Bradstreet four Sabbaths in y<sup>e</sup> summer past

voted 0 10 0

10 The Town Allowed to Thomas Dwinel three shillings for Three Trees to mend y<sup>e</sup> town bridge

voted 0 3 0

11 The Town Allowed to Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne two shillings for Timber to mend y<sup>e</sup> ways in 1727

voted

12 The Town Allowed to Mr Daniel Clark one pound nine shillings & four pence which is for the glass that John Smith set & mended in the meeting house y<sup>e</sup> year past Except Mrs. Bakers pew windo & y<sup>e</sup> glass in the west pew about

voted 1 9 4

13 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> Assessors viz Jacob Towne Thomas Gould Benjamin Towne and William Reddington for taking y<sup>e</sup> valuation of the Towns Estate in 1727 five pound twelve shillings

5 12 0

Boston June 21<sup>st</sup> 1727

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield by Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter fifty one pound being the second fifth part of their Proportion of the £ 50 000 Loan

for my mas<sup>r</sup> Jer<sup>e</sup> Allen Treasurer

P Geor: Rogers

The Inhabitants of the town of Topsfield such as are Qualified for Voting As the Law Directs are Notified & Warn<sup>d</sup> to assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> thirteenth Currant at Eleven of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on sd day

first To see if the Town will Concur with y<sup>e</sup> Church In giving the Reverend Mr Jacob Eliot a Call to the Work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry in Topsfield

2 If the Towne Don<sup>t</sup> see Cause to Concur With the Churches vote in Calling y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Eliot then to Chuse a Committe to supply the Pulpit some other way as they may think best

3 To see If the Town will abate y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of our Town on the south side of Nickolses Brook their Rates or any part





of them which is made to Defray Town charges for this year

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield February y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1727-8 Jacob Towne  
 John Willdes Constable for Topsfield Thomas Gould  
 A True Copy of the Notification Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne  
 Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington  
 Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield feb:<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1727-8

1 Mr Zacheus Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 The Town Agreed (& Concurd with the Church) to give the Reverend Mr Jacob Eliot a Call to settle with us in the work of the Ministry in Topsfield voted

3 Mr Zacheus Gould is Chosen in behalf of y<sup>e</sup> Town to Joyn with the Committe which the Church hath already Chosen to give the Reverend Mr Jacob Eliot A Call to settle with us in the work of the Ministry in Topsfield voted

Topsfield Febr<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1727-28

Received of Mr Jacob Peabody on behalf of the Town the sum of seven Pounds Ten shillings in full for my Preaching at Topsfield to this Day

P me Jacob Eliot

This is a True Copy of the Receipt attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting are hereby Notified and Warned to Assemble and Meet together at the Meeting house in Topsfield On Tusday the fift day of March next at Eight of the Clock before noon on said day

1 To Chuse Town Officers as the Law Directs

2 To see if the Town will give Order to Enter the Advice of the Reverend Ministers to wit Mr fisk & others Concerning Mr William Osgood in the Town Records:

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield ffebruary 22: Annoq: Domini 1727-8





John Wilds Constable for Topsfield

Jacob Towne  
Thomas Gould  
Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne  
William Reddington

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1727-8

1 En<sup>s</sup> Timothy Perkins is Chosen moderator for this meeting voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year Ensuing voted

3 M<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen Town Treasurer for the year Ensuing voted

4 Joseph Dorman & Francis Peabody are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5 En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman & Zacheus Gould Quarter<sup>mstr</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman Ivory Hovey & William Redington are Chosen Selectmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 Doct<sup>r</sup> Michael Dwinel John Nickols & Luke Averill are chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

7 En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman is Chosen sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

8 John Dwinel & Ephraim Willdes are Chosen Sirveyers of y<sup>e</sup> highways for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

9 John Burton & Joseph Knight are Chosen field drivers for the year Ensuing voted

10 Mr Daniel Clark & Jacob Robinson are Chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

11 David Balch & Edmon Towne are Chosen Hogreeves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

12 Richard Town is Chosen Schoolmaster for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

13 The Town agreed to take up with y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Ministers Advice viz Mr ffish & Others Respecting Mr William Osgood & the Church & Town of Topsfield and Ordred that y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Advice should be Entred on the Town Book

voted

The Town Officers that ware Chosen at y<sup>e</sup> above said meeting of whom an oath is by Law Required; all appeared at the house of M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clark inn holder in Topsfield im-





mediatly after said meeting was over & tooke the oath Proper for their Respective Offices before the Selectmen & Town Clerk

We the Subscribers being Convened in Topsfield July: 19<sup>th</sup> 1728 Att the Instance & Request both of ye Town & church in this place, to give our advice to them refering to y<sup>e</sup> Difficulty of their Circumstances The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr William Osgood with whom this Town & Church had Agreed to settle with in y<sup>e</sup> Ministry having Left them

Having had their s<sup>d</sup> Circumstances Laid before us together with the Reasons of y<sup>e</sup> Late Conduct of Mr Osgood in Desisting from y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry amongst them Do give our thoughts and advice in reference thereto as follows viz

1 We find there has been a Mutual Covenant Entred into between Mr William Osgood & the Church & Town of Topsfield that he should settle with them in y<sup>e</sup> Ministry

2 We find there have been unhappy and grievous rumours & Reports spread with respect to Mr Osgood that Carry in them great Detrusion: which Rumours & Reports we dont find ever to have been proved against him or that he has been ever Dealt with in an Ecclesiasticale way, or before y<sup>e</sup> Civell Magistrate for y<sup>e</sup> same, which we think Carrys in it a presumptive argument that they are without proof. Otherwise that those who might & whose duty seems to have been Concerned in their setting things in a Clear Light have been to blame y<sup>t</sup> they have not done it: but suffered things for so Long a time to Continue in y<sup>e</sup> Dark to y<sup>e</sup> great Disturbance of y<sup>e</sup> peace and hendrance of y<sup>e</sup> Edification of y<sup>e</sup> People of God in this place

3 We must needs approve & Commend the Church & Town of Topssfeld in the Tender Regard they have manifested both with respect to their own Covenant with Mr Osgood and also with respect to his Reputation

4 Inasmuch as M<sup>r</sup> William Osgood has Pleaded as y<sup>e</sup> Reasons of his Conduct in Desisting from y<sup>e</sup> work of the Ministry in this place that y<sup>e</sup> Obstructions he has met with as to his being Ordained to y<sup>e</sup> Ministry and the Manifol'd Reflections that have been Cast upon him are so great a burden upon his mind that upon Experience he finds himself unable to





bear up under it, so as to go on in his ministerial work with that Chearfullness & freedom which he thinks Necessary, for gods glory, the good of this People, & his own Comfort. And for y<sup>e</sup> same Reasons still Moves that the Covenant between him & this Church & Town, May by them be relinquished and disannulled—We do therefore upon the whole Considering the Exhortation Taking y<sup>e</sup> Oversight thereof not by Constraint but willingly—Advise That this Church & Town fall in with Mr Osgoods motion, he repeating y<sup>e</sup> same to them in writing under his hand, and Dismise him from the Obligations he has in Compliance with their Call, brought himself under to serve them in the ministry

Finally Brethren in the Bowells of Christ we do Exhort you seriously to Examine into and humble yourselves Deeply before God, for whatsoever may have been amidst in the Hours of Temptation, that you strive to Abound in Love Each to other, studying and pursueing the things that make for peace & where with one may Edifie another, uniting in your fervent prayers to God that he would give you Peace always & by all means And that in his own due time (& may it be speedily) he would happily resettle y<sup>e</sup> Gospel Ministry Amongst you; Thus Commending you to gracious Care & guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ the great Shepherd of y<sup>e</sup> Sheep & Bishop of Souls We remain your Affectionate friends and servants in Christ Jesus

To the Church & Town  
of Topsfield

Samuell ffisk  
John Barnard  
Benj<sup>a</sup> Prescott  
Daniel Putnam

This is a True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Advice of the above said Reverend Ministers To the Church & Town of Topsfield Attest  
Jacob Peabody To: Cler

To the Church & Town of Topsfield  
Gentlemen

These may Certifie—you that I do freely fully & forever acquit and absolve you from all Covenants & Agreements that are between you and myself: And I do sincerely Desire & wish your Speedy & Lasting Resettlement in y<sup>e</sup> Ministry: And pray that y<sup>e</sup> god of peace wisdom and Order would be with you and specially aid and assist you for that end as witness My hand





Salem Dec<sup>r</sup> 8: 1727

William Osgood

A True Copy of Mr [Osgood's] Aquittance sent To y<sup>e</sup> Church and Town of Topsfield Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders and Other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law Directs are Here by Notified & warned to Assemble and meet together at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> of March Currant at 12 of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on sd Day

1 To Choose Jurymen for Ipswich Court according to warrant

2 To see if the Town will Choose one or Two Men to go to Ipswich Court to be holden on y<sup>e</sup> Last Tuseday of March Currant With a Petition for Money to Defray y<sup>e</sup> Charge of Repairing the bridge & Causeway adjoyning to y<sup>e</sup> sd Bridge which is Comonly Called the Town Bridge in Topsfield

3 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will see Cause to reconsider their vote in Concurring with the Church in giving Mr Jacob Eliot a Call to y<sup>e</sup> work of the ministry in Topsfi<sup>d</sup>

4 To Allow Bills of Charge

Amos Dorman

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 14: 1727

Zacheus Gould

Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman

Will<sup>m</sup> Redington

Selectmen of Topsfield

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1727-8

1 En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> grand jury at y<sup>e</sup> next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

3 Mr Daniel Clark & Thomas Gould are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

4 Quarter Master Nath Bordman & Mr John Wildes are Chosen to Petition to the Court of general Sessions of y<sup>e</sup> Peace to be holden at Ipswich on y<sup>e</sup> Last Tuseday of March Currant To see if y<sup>e</sup> Honourable Court will Please to allow

1902749

Salem Dec 8: 1727 William Osgood  
 A True Copy of Mr [Osgood's] Affidavit sent To y<sup>e</sup>  
 Church and Town of Topsfield Attest Jacob Peabody Town  
 Clerk

The freeholders and Other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of  
 Topsfield such as are Qualified for Voting as the Law Di-  
 rected are Here by Notified & warned to Assemble and meet  
 together at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield on Tuesday y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>  
 of March Current at 12 of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on sd Day  
 1 To Choose Jurymen for Ipswich Court according to  
 warrant

2 To see if the Town will Choose one or Two Men to go to  
 Ipswich Court to be holden on y<sup>e</sup> Last Tuesday of March  
 Current With a Petition for Money to Defray y<sup>e</sup> Charge of  
 Repairing the bridge & Causeway adjoining to y<sup>e</sup> sd Bridge  
 which is Commonly Called the Town Bridge in Topsfield  
 3 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will see Cause to reconsider their vote  
 in Concurring with the Church in giving Mr Jacob Elliot a  
 Call to y<sup>e</sup> work of the ministry in Topsh<sup>am</sup>

4 To Allow Bills of Charge  
 D<sup>n</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 14: 1727  
 Amos Dorman  
 Nath<sup>l</sup> Gould  
 Nath<sup>l</sup> Borden  
 Will<sup>m</sup> Redington

1302745

Selectmen of Topsfield  
 A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification Attest Jacob Peabody  
 Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>  
 1727-8  
 1 En<sup>d</sup> Amos Dorman is Chosen Moderator for this Meet-  
 ing  
 2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> grand jury  
 at y<sup>e</sup> next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted  
 3 Mr Daniel Clark & Thomas Gould are Chosen to serve  
 on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the next Inferiour Court to be holden  
 at Ipswich voted  
 4 Quarter Master Nath<sup>l</sup> Borden & Mr John Wildes are  
 Chosen to Petition to the Court of General Sessions of y<sup>e</sup>  
 Peace to be holden at Ipswich on y<sup>e</sup> Last Tuesday of March  
 Current To see if y<sup>e</sup> Honourable Court will please to allow



any thing towards the repairing of y<sup>e</sup> Bridge which is over y<sup>e</sup> River in Topsfield (Commonly Called the Town Bridge) & the Causway adjoining to it voted

5 The Town Allowed To Doc<sup>t</sup> Samuel Wallis of Ipswich the sum of five pounds sixteen shillings & six pence for Curing y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averills knee in y<sup>e</sup> year 1726

voted £1-16-6

6 The Town allowed to Doc<sup>t</sup> Michael Dwinell one shilling & six pence for perambulating with Wenham men on y<sup>e</sup> Line between Wenham & Topsfield in May anno; 1727 £0-1-6

7 The Town Allowed to Mr Daniel Clark six shillings for his trouble in keeping and waiting on John Smith when he mended the Meeting house glass in 1727 0 6 0

The free Holders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified for voting as the Law Directs are hereby notified and warned to Assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>n</sup> Day of Aprill next Ensuing the Date hereof at 12 a Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day

1 To see If the Town will Choose three Trustees, to go to y<sup>e</sup> Province Treasurer for the Towns Proportion of y<sup>e</sup> 60000 pound Bank of Loan Money and to Impower s<sup>d</sup> Trustees to Let out s<sup>d</sup> Money as the Town shall Agree at this present Meeting

2 To See if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Agree upon a Sallary and settlement for the Suport of Mr Jacob Eliot in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry among: us: and to Chuse a Committee to Inform s<sup>d</sup> Mr Eliot of the Towns proceeding Concerning his Sallary and Settlement with us

3 To see if the Town will Provide Plank to Cover y<sup>e</sup> Town Bridge

4 To see if the Town will Agree to Set y<sup>e</sup> swine go at Large this year

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1727-8 Amos Dorman  
Joseph Dorman Constable for Topsfield Zacheus Could

Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman

William Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1728





1 En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 The freeholders Agreed to Choose Trustees to Receive of y<sup>e</sup> province Treasur this Towns Proportion of y<sup>e</sup> Sixty thousand pound of Loan money Agreeable to An Act Made & Passed in the General Court in 1727  
voted

3 Mr Amos Dorman Mr Eliezer Lake & Jacob Peabody are Chosen Trustees to Receive and Let out sd Money according to such Rules as the Town shall now agree upon  
voted

4 The Town agreed that the said Trustees shall Let out sd Money at six pound percent per annum  
voted

5 The said Trustees shall not Let out above Twenty pound of s<sup>d</sup> money to any person nor under five pound: And s<sup>d</sup> Trustees shall not Keep any more of s<sup>d</sup> Money for their own perticular use then is allowed by this vote to any Other person and not to Let out any of s<sup>d</sup> money to any out Towns person  
voted

6 The Town agreed to give to the Reverend Mr Jacob Eliot one hundred pounds per annum for his sallary if God in his providence shall settle him in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry in Topsfield  
voted

Amos Dorman	Jacob Dorman	John Perkins
Elisha Perkins	David Commings	Jacob Perkins
Benj <sup>a</sup> How	Stebbins Comings	Jonathan Perkins
Nath <sup>l</sup> Bordman	Samuel Towne	Joseph Dorman
Timothy Perkins	Joshua Towne	William Towne
Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	Edmon Towne	Zacheus Gould
Daniel Towne	John Commings	John Dwinel

These several Persons here above Named All Entered their Contrary Dissent to the Last vote above written

7 The Town agreed to have y<sup>e</sup> Town Bridge over y<sup>e</sup> River in Topsfield Covered with Plank this Summer  
voted

8 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen to Provide Plank two inches & a half thick and fourteen foot long: good white oak Plank to cover s<sup>d</sup> bridge as aforsd  
voted

9 The Town agreed that swine should go at Large this year according as the Law gives Liberty  
voted

10 Mr Thomas Gould Mr Zacheus Gould & Mr Joseph Towne & Jacob Peabody are Chosen to Inform the Reverend





Mr Jacob Eliot what the Town has Done this Day Respecting his sallary for his work in the Ministry in Topsfield voted

Amos Dorman Eliezer Lake & Jacob Peabody being Chosen Trustees to Receive & Let out the Towns Proportion of the sixty thousand pound Bank of Loan money: were sworn to the faithfull Discharge of their Duty & Trust in that Capacity before y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> Nineth day of Aprill, Anno Domini 1728

Entred by Order of y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen Jacob Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs are hereby Notified and Warned to Assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Mōday y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill Currant at Twelve of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on sd Day

first to Chuse a Representative to go to y<sup>e</sup> Great and General Court to be holden at Boston this year According to Warrant

2 To Recive the Answer which Mr Jacob Eliot sent to Zacheus Gould one of y<sup>e</sup> Committe men which Made Return to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Eliot of y<sup>e</sup> Towns proceedings at our Last Town Meeting

3 By the Desire of Ten or More freeholders of our Town to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Concur with y<sup>e</sup> Church in giveing Mr Bezaleel Tappan a Call to y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry amongst us in Topsfield and chuse a Committee to Inform y<sup>e</sup> said Mr Tappan of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Proceeding in s<sup>d</sup> afair also to see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will give to y<sup>e</sup> sd Mr Tappan for his sallary and settlement with us if he will be pleased to take up with us and if y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Tappan dont see cause to take up with us then to Impower the y<sup>e</sup> same Committe to Supply y<sup>e</sup> Pulpitt some other way

4 By the Desire of Ten or more freeholders To see if the Town will give Mr Jacob Eliot a settlement to support him in the work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry amongst us and to Choose a Committee to Accompt with Mr Eliot for his Past service Amongst us

5 To see if If y<sup>e</sup> Town will agree to Repair or Rebuild y<sup>e</sup> Pound and make it According to Law

6 To allow Bills of Charge





Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 22: 1728 Amos Dorman

Joseph Dorman Constable  
for Topsfield

Zacheus Gould  
Nathaniel Bordman  
Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

This is True Copy of the Notification Attest Jacob Pea-  
body Town Clerk

At a Legall Town meeting in Topsfield Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1728

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meet-  
ing voted

2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Representative for y<sup>e</sup>  
Town Agreeable to y<sup>e</sup> Precept Lately sent to y<sup>e</sup> selectmen

voted

3 The second & third Perticulars or Articles in y<sup>e</sup> noti-  
fication for the warning this Meeting were brought under  
Consideration in order: and after Considerable Debate had  
thereupon they past a vote upon Each of them in order to  
dismise them as not thinking it Convenient to act anything  
upon them

4 The Town Agreed to give to the Reverend Mr Jacob  
Eliot one hundred Pounds in bills of Credit toward his set-  
tlement & for his Encouragement to settle with us in y<sup>e</sup> Min-  
istry to be paid as the Town & Mr Eliot shall agree if s<sup>d</sup>  
Mr Eliot shall be Ordain<sup>d</sup> & settled in y<sup>e</sup> ministry in Tops-  
field

voted

5 Mr Nathaniel Aaveril Mr Elisha Perkins & Mr John  
Willds are Chosen a Committe to Adjust Accounts with y<sup>e</sup>  
Reverend Mr Jacob Eliot for his past service in y<sup>e</sup> work of  
y<sup>e</sup> Ministry amongst us and also to Desire s<sup>d</sup> Mr Eliot to  
give or send his Answer to y<sup>e</sup> Town in full Refering to his  
settling with us in the Ministry in Topsfield

6 John Perkins & Jonathan Willdes are Chosed to Repair  
y<sup>e</sup> Pound if repairing will Doo: but if not they are to Build  
& make a good sufficient pound that will Answer y<sup>e</sup> Law

voted

7 The Town Allowed six shillings to Eben<sup>r</sup> Nichols for  
warning Two town meetings in 1726

voted 0 6 0

8 the Town allowed Eighteen shillings to Dan Clark for  
sweeping the meeting house thre Quarters of a year in 1727

voted 00-18-0





To Mr Joseph Dorman Constable of Topsfield you are hereby Required in his Majesties Name to Warn the freeholders & other Inhabitants on y<sup>e</sup> north side of the River in Topsfield such as are Quallified for voting as the Law directs To Assemble & meēt together in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Munday y<sup>e</sup> sixth day of May Currant at two of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day afternoon

1 To Receive Mr Jacob Eliots Answer to the Town

2ly To see If the Town will see Cause to Choose a Committe to Inform M<sup>r</sup> Bezabeel Tappan that he has a Call to y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry in Topsfield: By the Church and a Concurrence by y<sup>e</sup> Town And to see what the Town will give him for his sallary & settlement if he sees Cause to take up with us to settle here in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry: but if y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Tappan dont see Cause take up with us

To Give the same Committe Power to supply the Pulpit some other way as the Town may think best: or if y<sup>e</sup> town dont see Cause to send to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Tappan then to Choose a Committe to supply y<sup>e</sup> Pulpit as y<sup>e</sup> Town shall Agree

3 To Allow Bills of Charge fail not to make Return of your doing at time & pl

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1728

Amos Dorman

Zacheus Gould

Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman

William Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

A proper Return was made & the Inhabitants on y<sup>e</sup> south side of y<sup>e</sup> River being likewise warn<sup>d</sup> the meeting was as folows

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1728

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

voted

2 The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> answer which Mr Jacob Eliot has sent to y<sup>e</sup> Town this Day shall be Entred in y<sup>e</sup> Town Book

voted

3 The Town past a Vote to Manifest their minds for Mr Tappan to be our minister by Proxse

voted

4 The Town having brought in their Proxse it Appeared that y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Tappan had a great Majority of votes

5 En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Borman & Mr Elisha Perkins are Chosen a Committe to Inform the Reverend Mr





Bezaleel Tappan of y<sup>e</sup> Town proceeding this day Referring To his being our minister & to give the sd Mr Tappan an Invitation to Preach sometime with us in Order to a Settlement in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry In Topsfield voted

6 But in Case y<sup>e</sup> sd Mr Tappan shall Decline Comming to Preach amongst us then s<sup>d</sup> Committe are Impowered to provide some other Minister or Ministers to preach to and Amongst us the four Next Sabbaths voted

7 The Town allowed five pound to Mr. Tobijah Perkins for keeping Mr Eliot & horse Ten weeks in y<sup>e</sup> winter past  
voted 5 0 0

Mr Eliots Answer To the Church and Town of Topsfield.  
Honored and Beloved

After a further and full Consideration of the Call you have given me to the work of the Ministry among you and all the Circumstances thereof: I Cannot see my way clear to accept it; since you were so much divided in your Choice and Remaining so or more so still; as has been Manifested in some Votes Referring thereto. In hopes therefore of greater peace, Love and Union, among yourselves I do by these presents discharge myself of the Obligations I have been under to supply your Pulpit: & shall not upon y<sup>e</sup> Present foundation Continue my Ministerial Labours among you any Longer—so praying that you may fully unite in your Affections to one another and in such an one to be your Pastor as may through the glorious Head of Influences be a happy Instrument of Promoting Peace and Holiness Among you; I Remain a fervent Well Wisher of your Temporal and Eternal Happyness

Jacob Eliot

Boston May y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1728

This is a True Copy of Mr Eliots Answer to the Church & Town of Topsfield Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified for Voting as the Law Directs are hereby notified & warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble & meet together in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Day of May Currant at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day afternoon

first To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will see Cause to make Choice of





Mr John Emerson to supply the Pulpit some time Longer in order to his settlement with us in ye work of the Ministry & to Choose a Committe to discourse with y<sup>e</sup> sd Mr Emerson in y<sup>e</sup> sd afair & to make return to y<sup>e</sup> Town if y<sup>e</sup> Town do agree as above sd: but if y<sup>e</sup> Town or Mr Emerson refuses then to Impower y<sup>e</sup> same or Chuse another Committe to supply y<sup>e</sup> Pulpit some other way as the Town shall agree

2ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Impour y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> to draw money out of y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasury to pay y<sup>e</sup> sd Mr Emerson for his service with us

3 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Impower y<sup>e</sup> former Trustees to Pay in y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> part of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Loan Money to ye Province Treasurery

4 To Allow bills of Charge

Dated in Topsfield May the 24<sup>th</sup> 1728

Joseph Dorman Constable  
of Topsfield

Amos Dorman

Zacheus Gould

Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1728  
first Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Reddington is Chosen Moderator for  
this meeting

voted

2 The Town have made Choice of the Reverend Mr John Emerson to supply the Pulpit some time Longer in order to his settlement with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of the Ministry in Topsfield

voted

3 Dea<sup>n</sup> Daniel Reddington Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett Mr Elisha Perkins Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman & Mr Ivory Hovey are Chosen a Committee to discourse with s<sup>d</sup> Mr Emerson in s<sup>d</sup> afair and if s<sup>d</sup> Mr Emerson shall Refuse to Come as afore s<sup>d</sup> the sd Com<sup>tee</sup> are Impowered to supply the Pulpit by some other gentle<sup>m</sup> four Sabbaths next after he so Refuses

voted

4 The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> viz Mr Elisha Perkins Mr Amos Dorman & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman are Impowered to draw money out of y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasury to pay said Mr. Emerson for his preaching amongst us four Sabbaths

voted

5 The Town agreed & ordred that y<sup>e</sup> former Trustees shall pay in y<sup>e</sup> third: fift part of y<sup>e</sup> Towns former Loan money to the Province Treasurer by y<sup>e</sup> first of June next

voted

6 The Town Allowed to Dan Clark two shillings which





with Eighteen shillings that y<sup>e</sup> town hath already allowed: Makes one pound for sweeping ye meeting house three Quarters of a year in 1727 voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law directs are hereby Notified & Warn<sup>d</sup> to assemble and meet together in y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July next at 12 of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day

1 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Choose a Com<sup>tee</sup> to Provide Quarters for Mr John Emerson and to agree with him for his service with us in y<sup>e</sup> future

2 To see if the Town Chuse a Com<sup>tee</sup> to Joyn with Redding Committe to Try if they can git a fish Course Cleared up Ipswich River

3 To see what the Town will do Concerning the families that Petition Not be set of to Wills hill &c.

4 to allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield June y<sup>e</sup>: 1728

Joseph Dorman Constable  
of Topsfield

Amos Dorman

Zacheus Gould

Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield July y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1728

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Mr Elisha Perkins Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman & Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Committe to provide Quarters for the Reverend Mr John Emerson & Agree with him for his service in the ministry amongst us for y<sup>e</sup> future—Until the Town shall otherwise agree voted

3 Mr Joseph Towne Mr John Hovey & Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne are Chosen & Impowered A Committe to Joyn with y<sup>e</sup> Committe y<sup>t</sup> Redding hath Chosen to Try if they can git a fish course clea<sup>d</sup> up Ipswich River & y<sup>e</sup> Town will stand by & defend them in all their Lawfull Proseeding in: & of Prosecuting the same voted

4 The Town Allowed six pound for Mr Emersons preaching amongst us y<sup>e</sup> four last Sabbaths & En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman is hereby Impowered to draw money out of the Town Treas-urey to pay s<sup>d</sup> Mr Emerson for sd service voted





5 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman Mr Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne & Mr Zacheus Gould are Chosen agents for the Town to prefer a Petition to y<sup>e</sup> General Court at their next sessions that Mr Thomas Robinson Mr Job Averill Mr Paul Averill Mr John Comings & Mr Daniel Towne & all the Land Excluded within the following bounds May be again Laid & Restored to y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield to which they & s<sup>d</sup> Land did formerly belong  
voted

The freeholders & other of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for voting as the Law directs are hereby Notioed & warned to assemble & meet together on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> 23: Day of July Currant at 12 of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day first to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will see Cause to Concur with the Church in giving Mr John Emerson a Call to y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> ministry with us

2 To see what sallary & settlement y<sup>e</sup> Town will agree to give to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Emerson for his support in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry with us

3 To Chuse a Committe to Inform y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Emerson of y<sup>e</sup> Towns proceeding and to Receive his answer and to make Return thereof to y<sup>e</sup> Town at y<sup>e</sup> next Town Meeting

4 To see if Town will Agree to Petition to y<sup>e</sup> Great and General Court with those families that have Latly been Layd to Middleton that they may be Returned to us again

Dat <sup>d</sup> in Topsfield July y <sup>e</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> 1728	Amos Dorman
Joseph Dorman Constable	Zacheus Gould
of Topsfield	Nath <sup>l</sup> Bordman
	Will <sup>m</sup> Reddington
	Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield July: 23: 1728

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Where as the Church did on y<sup>e</sup> 16th of July 1728 agree to give the Reverend Mr John Emerson a Call to settle with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry The Town do now Readily Concur therewith  
voted

3 The Town agreed to give to y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr John Emerson one hundred pound in Bills of Publick Credit or in such other Money as shall be Commonly Passing amongst





us: for his sallary to support him in y<sup>e</sup> work of the Ministry amongst us s<sup>d</sup> hundred pound to be paid yearly & Every year so long as he shall Continue his Ministry amongst us, and also the Improvement of the Parsonage land in Topsfield during y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Term voted

4 The Town Agreed to give the Reverend Mr John Emerson Two hundred pounds in Bills of Credit for his Encouragement to settle with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of the Ministry voted

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Entred his Contrary dissent to y<sup>e</sup> two Last votes above Entred

5 Mr Elisha Perkins Mr Jacob Towne & David Balch are Chosen a Com<sup>tee</sup> (to Joyn with the Committe which y<sup>e</sup> Church hath already Chosen) to give y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr John Emerson a Call in behalf of y<sup>e</sup> Town to settle with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of y<sup>e</sup> Ministry in Topsfield & s<sup>d</sup> Committe which y<sup>e</sup> Town hath now Chosen are to Receive Mr Emersons Answer to s<sup>d</sup> Call and make Return thereof to the Town at y<sup>e</sup> next Town meeting voted

6 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman are Chosen agents for y<sup>e</sup> Town to Prefer a petition to y<sup>e</sup> General Court at their next sessions that Job Averill Paul Averill Daniel Towne & John Commings with all y<sup>e</sup> Lands Enclued within the following bounds (may be again Laid to Topsfield to which they & s<sup>d</sup> Lands Did formerly belong) viz Beginning at Daniel Townes Corner Bound at Nickolses Brook & so including s<sup>d</sup> Towns Land to Comminges Land & so by Comminges Land to Ipswich voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs are hereby Notified & warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble & meet together in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday the seventeenth day of September Currant at Twelve of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day

first to Receive y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr John Emersons Answer to y<sup>e</sup> Town by ye Committe that was Chosen for y<sup>t</sup> Purpose

2ly To Choose a Committe to make up Accumpts with y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Emerson for the time past

3ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will agree to state a time when y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Emersons yearly sallary will begin and how it shall be paid





4ly To Choose Jurymen for Newbery Court According to Warrant

5ly To Choose a Constable for y<sup>e</sup> south side of y<sup>e</sup> River

6ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will take any further Care about Rebuilding y<sup>e</sup> pound

Dated in Topsfield September

y<sup>e</sup> 12th 1728

Joseph Dorman Constable  
of Topsfield

Amos Dorman

Zacheus Gould

Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman

Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield September y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1728

1 Mr Zacheus Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 The Town Agreed to Receive & accept of y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr John Emersons Answer that was brought to y<sup>e</sup> Town this day  
voted

3 The Town agreed that the Reverend Mr John Emersons yearly sallary for his ministry amongst us shall begin on y<sup>e</sup> second day of September Currant & y<sup>e</sup> one half of s<sup>d</sup> yearly sallary shall be paid on or before the second day of September next following & so yearly  
voted

4 Luke Averill & Samuel Bradstreet are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at y<sup>e</sup> next Inferior Court to be holden at Newbery  
voted

5 Samuel Curtis is Chosen Constable for this year En- suing until the Annual Town Meeting in March Next  
voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Tops- field such as are Quailified for voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs Are hereby Notified & warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble & meet together in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Thursday the 24 day of Octo- ber Currant at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day

first To see if the Town will Concur with y<sup>e</sup> Church as to y<sup>e</sup> day Appointed for y<sup>e</sup> Ordination of y<sup>e</sup> reverend Mr John Emerson to y<sup>e</sup> work of ministry Amongst us

2 To see what Method y<sup>e</sup> Town will take to make neces- sary provision for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Ordination and to Chuse a Committe and Impower them to take care of sd business





3 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Raise any money to defray Town  
 Charges Amos Dorman  
 Dated in Topsfield October y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1728 Zacheus Gould  
 Joseph Dorman Coustable of Topsfield Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington  
 Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield y<sup>e</sup> 24: 1728

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
 voted

2 Whereas the Church have agreed to have y<sup>e</sup> Reverend  
 Mr John Emerson Ordained on y<sup>e</sup> Last Wednesday of Nov-  
 ember Next Ensuing the Town doe now Concur therewith  
 voted

3 M<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey Mr Zacheus Gould Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman  
 Mr Amos Dorman & Mr John Willdes are Chosen a Com-  
 mitte to Provide houses and to take Care that suitable provi-  
 sion be made at them for said Ordination voted

4 The Town agreed the present selectmen shall Levey a  
 Tax of fifty pound (besides Mr Emersons sallary) to Defray  
 town charges voted

Mr Daniel Clark Enters his Contrary Dissent to all the  
 towns Votes Refering to the Ordination of y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr  
 John Emerson

Honoured and Beloved

Forasmuch as it has Pleased y<sup>e</sup> Lord Jesus Christ the glori-  
 ous head of the Church; whose I am and whom I desire to  
 serve to incline your minds to give me an Invitation to fix  
 among you in y<sup>e</sup> very awfull & important work of y<sup>e</sup> Minis-  
 try: I have since taken this great affair into serious Consider-  
 ation I have also advised with Reverend Elders in y<sup>e</sup> Vicinity:  
 and above all have Earnestly applied myself to y<sup>e</sup> wonderfull  
 Counsellour, that my way in this Monenteous Article may  
 be made Plain before my face: and now after all I find my  
 heart disposed to Embrace your Call; tho at y<sup>e</sup> same time  
 when I consider y<sup>e</sup> Great Difficulty, the Vast Importance &  
 awfull Solemnity of y<sup>e</sup> work; to which you have Called me  
 and my own Weakness & Insufficiency, my youth, want of  
 Experience &c—When I Reflect upon these things I am  
 ready to faint & be discouraged and sigh out the words of  
 y<sup>e</sup> Prophet ah LORD GOD I cannot speak for I am a





childe:—and to address y<sup>e</sup> Lord in y<sup>e</sup> words of Moses O My LORD send I pray thee by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. But then, when I Consider y<sup>e</sup> Alsufficiency of CHRIST who (I trust) has Called me to this work: & who has Graciously Promised to be with his Ministers to y<sup>e</sup> End of ye world; when I consider also your unanimity in y<sup>e</sup> Call which you have given me; and further when I Consider the Effectual fervent prayers with which (I trust) you will wrestle with y<sup>e</sup> God of Jacob on my behalf: These Considerations seem to Raise my sinking spirits to Answer my Objections and Constrain me to offer myself with y<sup>e</sup> Evangelical Prophet here am I send me:—As to what you have Offered me for my outward Support I thankfully Accept it: And inasmuch as tis my principle (and I hope my practice will not be inconsistent) That a Minister of y<sup>e</sup> Gospel shoul<sup>d</sup> not intangle Himself in y<sup>e</sup> Affairs of this Life but give himself wholly to his Proper work and Business: I therefore Cannot but hope that you will freely Minister as there shall be Occasion to my Necessity & for my Comfort: If I know my own heart tis with this special view that I Desire to reap of your Carnall things, that so I may attend upon y<sup>e</sup> Business to which you have Called me without Distraction; and be y<sup>e</sup> better inabled to minister unto you Spiritual things, for I trust I can say with y<sup>e</sup> Apostle I seek not yours but you, and am willing to spend & be spent in your service. And now I beseech you brethren for y<sup>e</sup> Lord Jesus Christs Sake and for y<sup>e</sup> Love of y<sup>e</sup> spirit that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me that I may be prepared to receive the Awfull Charge of your souls which may in y<sup>e</sup> most solemn manner be given to me—that I may be more & more furnished for, disposed to, Assisted & encouraged in the great work of y<sup>e</sup> gospel ministry Amongst you—that I may from time to time Come to you in y<sup>e</sup> fullness of y<sup>e</sup> Blessing of the Gospel of Christ & be made a rich & Lasting Blessing to you & yours: And that you & your Children may be made Comforte to me here, and a Crown of Rejoycing in that Day: when our Lord shall Come to be Glorified in his Saints and Admired by all them that believe

8 voted in Assembly next morning  
in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Day  
of December Cutt at 12 of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on said day





With these Earnest Desires I subscribe myself yours to serve in y<sup>e</sup> gospel

John Emerson

This is A True Copy of Mr Emersons answer to y<sup>e</sup> Church & Town of Topsfield Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At a Church Meeting in Topsfield October y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1728

The Church agreed to have y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr John Emerson ordained as soon as may be Conveniently Provided he will Consent to Rule in y<sup>e</sup> Church according to y<sup>e</sup> Platform of Church Discipline agreed upon by the Synod Conven<sup>d</sup> at Cambridge in 1648

voted

This is A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Churches Vote: Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

To the Church of Topsfield Gentlemen This may serve to Certifie & assure you that in y<sup>e</sup> Government & Discipline y<sup>t</sup> I shall Exercise: I shall by y<sup>e</sup> Grace of God Endeavor as much as possible to Conform myself to y<sup>e</sup> infallible Rule of y<sup>e</sup> word of God aud also to y<sup>e</sup> Platform of our Church Discipline agreed upon by y<sup>e</sup> Synod Conven<sup>d</sup> at Cambridge in y<sup>e</sup> year 1648

as witness my hand

John Emerson

This is A True Copy of Mr Emersons Answer to y<sup>e</sup> Church in Reference to y<sup>e</sup> above written note: Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The above written vote of y<sup>e</sup> Church and Mr Emersons answer to it: were Entered in this Book that they may not be Lost; but remain to after generations.

October 11<sup>th</sup> 1728 Received of Mr Elisha Perkins & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman Commite for y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield: y<sup>e</sup> Sum of thirteen pounds Ten shillings for My Preaching in s<sup>d</sup> Town untill y<sup>e</sup> second day of Sep<sup>tr</sup> 1728 John Emerson 13:10:00

A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

By Vertue of a Warrant from y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen of Topsfield The freeholders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs Are hereby Notified & warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble & meet together in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Day of December Currant at 12 of y<sup>e</sup> Clock on said day





To see if the Town will agree to or give order for y<sup>e</sup> Raising any more money to Defray Town Charges: And to Allow Bills of Charge: And to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Choose anybody to take Care of y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averill &c

Dat<sup>d</sup> in Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1728 Joseph Dorman Constable of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1728

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 The Town Allowed Thirty Eight pounds Eight shillings 38 08 00 To the Committe that were Chosen to provide for y<sup>e</sup> ordination of Mr Emerson namely Amos Dorman Zacheus Gould Ivory Hovey & John Willdes; for what they have been out for s<sup>d</sup> ordination besides there time  
voted

And then the Town Meeting was adjourn<sup>d</sup> untill y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Day of Decem<sup>r</sup> Currant At one of clock afternoon

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield begun & held on y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> of Decem<sup>r</sup> 1728 And adjorn<sup>d</sup> untill y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Day of Decem<sup>r</sup> Currant And then Met

The Town Allowed four pound to En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman for Diating Mr Emerson sixteen weeks in th[e] summer past  
voted 4 0 0

2 The Town Allowed Ten pound fourteen shillings & six pence To Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould for plank to Cover the Town bridge over y<sup>e</sup> River And for gitting & Carting y<sup>e</sup> sd Plank in y<sup>e</sup> Summer past  
voted 10 14 6

3 The Town Allowed thirteen shillings & Eight pence to Stephen Johnson for mending the meeting house in November 1728  
voted 00 13 8

4 The Town Allowed three shillings To Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett for Timber to Mend y<sup>e</sup> bridge near his house in summer past  
voted 00 3 0

5 The Town Allowed two shillings to Tobijah Perkins for a string piece to Mend y<sup>e</sup> bridge by Dea<sup>n</sup> Howletts in Summer past  
voted 00 2 0

6 The Town Allowed six shillings & two pence to Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill for two string pieces & Eight slabs to mend Mile Brook bridge in 1728  
voted 00 6 2





7 The Town Allowed one pound to Jacob Dorman for keeping y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averill three weeks in y<sup>e</sup> Last summer past voted 01 00 0

8 The Town allowed one pound Ten shillings to Ivory Hovey he haveing Expended so much on y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averill in her Late sickness at y<sup>e</sup> wido: Dormans 01 10 0

9 The Town Made Choice of Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman & Mr John Willdes to Petition to y<sup>e</sup> next sessions of the peace to be holden at Salem for some Allowance or help towards the Repairing y<sup>e</sup> bridge over y<sup>e</sup> River in Topsfield voted

10 M<sup>r</sup> Eliezer Lake & Mr Thomas Dwinel are Chosen to take Care of the widow Mary Averill voted

11 The Town Made Choice of M<sup>r</sup> David Balch To Take Care of the Towns Plank & other Timber which now Lyes by y<sup>e</sup> Town bridge (so called) and to keep the same till further order from y<sup>e</sup> town voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law directs are hereby Notified and warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble & meet together in y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> fourth day of March Ensuing at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning on sd day first To Choice Town Officers

2ly To order a highway to be Lay<sup>d</sup> out to Boxford Line Convenient for passing from Topsfield meeting house to Boxford meeting house

3 To see how the Town will Dispose of y<sup>e</sup> interest of y<sup>e</sup> Loan money and to accompt with y<sup>e</sup> Trustees: and to Choose another Trustee in y<sup>e</sup> Room of En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman Late Deceased

4 To see if y<sup>e</sup> [Town] will Lay out a highway for Edmond Towne from his house to y<sup>e</sup> town bridge

5 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will see cause to alter y<sup>e</sup> way that goeth through Jacob Reddingtons Land or to see if they will accept of y<sup>e</sup> Committees return y<sup>t</sup> was formerly Employe<sup>d</sup> in s<sup>d</sup> service

5 To see what Improvement y<sup>e</sup> Town will Put y<sup>e</sup> money too which is allowed us by y<sup>e</sup> Quarter sessions toward Repairing our Town bridge

7 To see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will doe Concerning fencing y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage





8ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will see cause to try to have some of our Neighbours belonging to Ipswich farms to be Lay<sup>d</sup> to us, Either as to parrish or Township

9 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will agree to order some other Method to warn Town meetings

10 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Chuse a Com<sup>tee</sup> to Discourse with y<sup>e</sup> Reverend mr John Emerson to see if he will Preach a Monthly Lecture to us

11 To Chuse overseers of y<sup>e</sup> Poor

12 to allow bills of Charge

Dated in Topsfield february 17<sup>th</sup> 1728-9

Joseph Dorman Constable  
of Topsfield

By order of y<sup>e</sup>  
Selectmen of  
Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1728-9

first Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 Joshua Towne & Richard Towne are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

4 Ivory Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5 Mr Joseph Bordman & Mr Thomas Gould are Chosen overseers of y<sup>e</sup> Poor y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett, Benjamin Towne, Eliezer Lake, David Balch & Jacob Peabody are Chosen Selectmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

7 Corp<sup>l</sup> Joseph Towne John Prichard Ju<sup>r</sup> & Daniel Reddington Ju<sup>r</sup> are Chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

8 Mr John Hovey is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

9 Jesse Dorman Aaron Estey & Jonathan Perkins are Chosen Surveyors of highways for the year Ensuing voted

10 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould & Daniel Gould are Chosen field Drivers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

11 Isaac Peabody & Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen fence viewers for the year Ensuing voted

at Ipswich within & for y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex





12 John Towne & David Commings are Chosen Hogreeves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

13 William Reddington is Chosen schoolmaster for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

14 The Town agreed y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> money which y<sup>e</sup> Court allowed towards y<sup>e</sup> repairing the Town Bridge & y<sup>e</sup> intrest of y<sup>e</sup> Towns former Loan Money shall go to pay Town Debts And the selectmen are hereby ordered to Receive y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> intrest money of y<sup>e</sup> Trustees & to Deliver the same to y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer & Mr John Willdes who had order from y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen to Receive y<sup>e</sup> money y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Court allowed as afores<sup>d</sup> & is hereby ordered to pay in y<sup>e</sup> same to y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer: for y<sup>e</sup> use aforesaid voted

15 Mr Tobijah Perkins is Chosen a Trustee in y<sup>e</sup> room of En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman Des<sup>d</sup> voted

And then y<sup>e</sup> meeting was adjourn untill Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> Eleventh Currant at Twelve of a Clock

A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield (held by adjournment) on y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1828-9

16 Quarter<sup>msr</sup> Nath<sup>ll</sup> Bordman Docter Michael Dwinel & Mr John Curtis are Chosen & Desired to go & discourse with En<sup>s</sup> Thomas Tarbox: Mr John Got & Mr Samuel Gott (all of Wenham) Concerning y<sup>e</sup> way which Leads from y<sup>e</sup> Town bridge through their Lotts to see if they will give Liberty of a Convenient way for y<sup>e</sup> Neighbours to go through said Lotts voted

17 Quarter<sup>mr</sup> Nath<sup>ll</sup> Bordman Mr Eliezer Lake & Mr Tobijah Perkins are Chosen a Committee to view y<sup>e</sup> way that Leads through Jacob Reddingtons Land in order to turn it Giving Notice to all parties Concern<sup>d</sup> to meet them at y<sup>e</sup> Place & s<sup>d</sup> Committe are hereby fully Impowered to Lay out a way as far as s<sup>d</sup> Redingtons Land goes where they in their Judgement shall think most Convenient for y<sup>e</sup> Town & y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors Concern<sup>d</sup> & the Neighbours that have most need of s<sup>d</sup> way voted

18 Mr Jacob Estey is Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jury for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

19 Daniel Gould & Thomas Dwinel are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at y<sup>e</sup> next Inferior Court to be holden at Ipswich within & for y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex voted





20 The Town Manifested by a vote that they were willing & desirous that our Neighbours belonging to Ipswich farms should be Laid to Topsfield as a Township voted

21 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet Mr Nathanill & M<sup>r</sup> William Redington are Chosen a Committe to discourse our s<sup>d</sup> neighbours about y<sup>e</sup> affair to see if they will Joyn with Topsfield in Trying to be set off to us as afore sd voted

22 The Town agreed to fence in y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage Land in Topsfield by way of a Rate And Mr Eliezer Lake is Chosen to make up y<sup>e</sup> sd Parsonage fence by y<sup>e</sup> Last Day of May Next Ensuing to make some wall & some Railfence as he shall Judge Most Beneficial voted

23 Cler. Elisha Perkins Mr Ivory Hovey & Mr Jacob Estey are Chosen a Committe to discourse with y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr John Emerson to see if he will Please to Preach a Monthly Lecture to us & sd Committe are to return his answer to the Town at y<sup>e</sup> next Town meeting voted

24 The Town allowed to Thomas Dwinel one pound fifteen shillings for keeping y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averil seven weeks in y<sup>e</sup> winter past voted 01 15 0

25 The Town allowed to y<sup>e</sup> widow Deborah Dorman & Jacob Byxbe fifteen shillings for keeping y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averill six weeks in y<sup>e</sup> begining of y<sup>e</sup> winter past: they having had thirty shillings of Serg<sup>t</sup> hovey for sd service voted 0 15 0

26 The Town Allowed to Nath<sup>l</sup> Capen five shillings for Cullouring the pulpit before Ordination of Mr Emerson voted 0 5 0

27 The Town Allowed to Richard Towne Twenty shillings for serving Schoolmaster y<sup>e</sup> Last year voted 1 0 0

All the Town officers y<sup>t</sup> were Chosen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing of whom an oath is by Law Required were all sworn before y<sup>e</sup> selectmen on y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & on y<sup>e</sup> 11 day of March 1728-9 Entered by order of y<sup>e</sup> selectmen: Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At the above said Town meeting March 11<sup>th</sup> 1728 9 Nathaniel Averill Jun<sup>r</sup> & Eliezer Lake are Chosen to finde the bounds & straiten y<sup>e</sup> Lines of y<sup>e</sup> parsonage Land in Topsfield in order to fence it as above said voted

8 The Town allowed to Quarter - Nath<sup>l</sup> Dwinel





The ffreholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified according to Law for voting are hereby Warned & Notified to Assemble and meet together at the Meeting house in Topsfield: on Tuseday the first day of April next Ensuing the date hereof at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock afternoon on sd Day

1 To see if the Town will do anything to mend up any seats that are broken down in the meeting house

2 to give Liberty for swine to go at Large as the Law directs

3 to allow bills of Charge

Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne

Dated Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 22 1728-9

Joshua Towne Constable

} by order of  
the selectmen  
of Topsfi<sup>d</sup>

At A Lawfull Towne Meeting in Topsfield Aprill: 1: 1729

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 The Towne Agreed that y<sup>e</sup> seats y<sup>t</sup> were broken in y<sup>e</sup> meeting house at y<sup>e</sup> ordination of Mr Emerson should be Repaired at y<sup>e</sup> Towns Cost voted

3 The Towne Made Choice of Stephen Johnson to repair s<sup>d</sup> seats voted

The Town gave Liberty for swine to go at Large according as y<sup>e</sup> Law gives Liberty voted

4 The Town agreed that the Present selectmen should Cast up Mr Zacheus Goulds Rates y<sup>t</sup> were Committed to him as Constable viz the Country and Town Rates to see if they are short of what they are Called voted

5 The Town allowed one pound seven shillings to Jonathan Wildes for keeping the Meeting house y<sup>e</sup> Last year y<sup>e</sup> year Ending Last March meeting voted 01 07 00

6 The Town allowed to John Willdes Two pounds & six pence for going to Court to git some allowance towards y<sup>e</sup> Repairing the Town bridge voted 2 0 6

7 the Town Allowed to John Willdes five shillings & six pence for Joseph Kimballs Rates he being gone out of Town voted 0 3 6

8 The Town allowed to Quar<sup>ter</sup> mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman one





pound five shillings for giting some help at Court toward repairing the Town Bridge voted 150

9 The Town Allowed to Benja Towne one shilling he having paid so much for Entering y<sup>e</sup> Warning of Rebeckah Thorp out of Town on y<sup>e</sup> Court Record voted 010

The freeholders and other Inhabitance of the Town of Topsfield duly Quallified by Law for voting: are warned and notified to Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> seventh Currant at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning: To Chuse a Representative to serve at the General Court: and to Chuse a Committee to Reckon with mr Nathaniel Porter our former Town Treasurer: and to Choose a Committe to Repair our meeting house: and To see whether the Town will give Liberty for Mr<sup>s</sup> Mary Baker to hang gates ACrose the way that Goeth allong by her house: And to see if the Town will finde a pew for y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr Emerson: And to Receive the Committies Return that was Chosen to discourse with Ipswich farmers and to act upon it: and to order y<sup>e</sup> interest of Towns Last Loan money according to y<sup>e</sup> act: and to Allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield May 1: 1729  
Joshua Towne Constable  
of Topsfield

John Howlett  
Eliezer Lake  
Dauid Balch  
Benja Towne  
Jacob Peabody

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1729

1 Mr Zacheus Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Capt Joseph Gould is Chosen Representative for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 The Town Agreed that y<sup>e</sup> Present Selectmen or y<sup>e</sup> Major part of them shall Reckon with Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter our former Town Treasurer voted

4 Mr Ivory Hovey & Capt Joseph Gould are Chosen a Committe to discourse with Mr<sup>s</sup> Capen to see if she would be willing that ye Ministers Wife should sit with her in y<sup>e</sup> pew that she now sits in till the Town shall see Cause to provide otherwise voted

(To be continued.)





# WILLIAM AVERILL OF IPSWICH AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

1 WILLIAM AVERILL is supposed to have migrated from Broadway, Worcestershire, England, and is probably the ancestor of almost the entire family in this country. He was living at Ipswich, Mass., as early as Mar. 2, 1637, when he was granted six acres of planting ground on the further side of Muddy river. In 1638 he owned a house lot near where the County House is to-day. He was made a commoner in 1641. His will, dated July 3, 1652, and proved in court at Ipswich, Mar. 29, 1653, reads as follows:—

"I William Auerill of Ipswich being weake in bodye but of pfect memorye doe make this my last will and testament first I doe bequeath my body to the earth to be deasently buried in the Burying place of Ipswich my spirit into the hands of my Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. And for my outward estate being but small I doe giue vnto my children each of them being seuen in number the some of fīue shillings a peece & the rest of my estate my debts being discharged I giue vnto Abagal my wife whom I make sole executrix of this my last will in witness heerof I haue heervnto sett my hand and seale the 3th of the 4th mo : 1652.

"Andrew hodge,  
Renold ffoster.

Will  
Aveirell."

"Inventory of the estate of William Averill, filed 29 Mar., 1653.

It. hous: Lott & house	10—00—00
It. 10 acres of vpland ground & 6 A <sup>s</sup> meddo	10—00—00
It. 2 Kine & 2 two-yer: old	16—00—00
It. 2 shoats	01—00—00



It. 1 Iron pott—1 brass pott—1 frying pan—4 pewtr platts—1 flagon—1 Iron Kettle—1 brass Kettle— 1 Copp, 1 brass pan & some othr small things	02—17—00
It. 2 Chests—1 fethr bed—1 othr bed—2 payre of sheets —2 bolster—3 pillows—2 blanketts—1 Covlid— 1 bedstead—& othr smal linnen	05—10—00
It. 2 Coats & wearing apparel	03—00—00
It. 1 warming pan	00—03—00
It. A tub 2 pails a few books	00—10—00
A Corslett	01—00—00
<hr/>	
" what shee oweth	12—00—00
Reginold fostr	
Andrew Hodgs Apprisers."	

His widow, Abigail, died at Ipswich shortly before Mar. 27, 1655, when the inventory of her estate was returned to court by her son William, in which is mentioned "the pequitt lot of 7 acres."

Children:

## 2 WILLIAM.

SARAH, probably his daughter, m. Nov. 23, 1663, John Wildes of Topsfield. She was executed as a witch on July 19, 1692.

THOMAS, probably his son, m. Dec. 8, 1657, Frances Collings, at Ipswich. He was living in Topsfield, 1663-1668, and had a daughter Sarah, born there Mar. 23, 1666-7.

JOHN, probably his son, was living in Ipswich, 1654-1656.

A child, living in 1652.

A child, living in 1652.

A child, living in 1652.

**2 William Averill** was a carpenter and lived in Ipswich until February, 1663 (he was a surveyor of high-ways at Ipswich in 1661), when he bought of Daniel Clark of Topsfield, a house and other outbuildings, together with one hundred acres of land in the eastern part of Topsfield. A depression marking the former location of the cellar of his house may yet be seen on the left-hand side of the road leading from "Springville" towards "Mile Brook bridge," just beyond the Wildes-Perley





house. This road was laid out from William Averill's house to what is now "Springville," on Mar. 19, 1666-7. Many of his descendants settled near him, and in after years an Averill neighborhood not far away became known as "The Colleges," from the fact, as the story goes, that the Averills at that time were some of the most intelligent people in the town, being prominent in town affairs and holding public office. They were cabinet-makers and subscribed to one of the three copies of a newspaper that came into the town. William Averill was selectman in 1688, and tithing man in 1682. He married, July 31, 1661, Hannah Jackson of Ipswich, who survived him and was living in Connecticut about 1735. He died April 23, 1691. His will, proved June 30, 1691, follows:—

"The last will and testament of william averell, of Topsfield, sen<sup>r</sup> in the County of Essex in New England. I being weake in body but through gods goodness, yet of Competent understanding and memory, I Commit my body to the dust when god shall take me hence, and my Spirits unto the hands of almighty god and my most mercifull redeemer. And my outward estate as followeth, I doe will unto my Eleven children the sume of six pound a piece for the present to be pd as they are or shall come to age in such specia of moveabls as the estate consists in, not to be prised as money but as upon pay acct. And this rule to be atteaded in all other payments hereafter to be mentioned. The remainder of my estate viz. my lands & housing stock & houshold goods moveables and Imoveables, my will is to Leave it with my deare and Loveing wife, to be improved for the mutual releiff, and comfort both of herself & family I shall leave with her, or so many of them whose hearts god shall enclyne to live together with their deare mother as brethren in peace Love and unity And to be mutually helpfull in improveing the Land and stock for their own & each others Lyvlihood that they may by keeping neare together be helpfull to each other in an hour of danger. My will is that if my present dwelling house shall continue in being untill after my wives decease, And also that my sone John and my





sone Nathaniel shall be then liveing that they shall have each of them Ten pounds out of the value of the house before any division be made or if either of you shall survive and not the other then his ten pound shall be his due.

“If they shall both dye before their mother Then this to be void & of non effect. My will is that after my wives decease my lands & houseing shall with the rest of my estate that shall then be in being be equally divided amongst my children that shall be then Liveing, the lands & houseing to belong equally unto my sonns. Yet soe as they shall not make Sale or conveyance unto any stranger of yr proportion, before they have proffered the same to such of yr brethren as may be willing to buy the same, who shall have one full years Liberty to purchase or refuse.

“If any shall doe contraire hereunto he shall forfault his entrest in his share of land and houseing nor shall he hold his proportion at a higher price to his brethren than the same will yeild to a stranger. It. my will is that if the land shall fall short in value that my sones have not yr due in value. What shall be wanting shall be made up out of the stock & moveables. And the like be done if stock & movables fall short. The heires of the Lands & houseing to pay every one his part. My will is that my sone Nathaniell may use the shop tooles not to make any strip nor waste or to deprive the family of the benefit of such as they shall have occasion for, while they shall continue together. I doe hereby give to my wife full power to determine what kynd of household goods shall belong to each of our daughters. And also to impart as there may be need either to sones or daughters what may be conveniently spared keeping a true acct. thereof, not exceeding what will be their proportion at the Last division. And what they shall so receive shall be accounted unto them as part of their last proportion out of my estate. (I doe not intend here the first six pounds mentioned in the former part of these Lynes.) I doe also give Liberty to my wife to allow reasonable recompense to such of our children though not yet come to age as shall approve themselves dilligent, faithfull and constant in improving





and & stock for the good of the family after they come to full age which shall be taken out of the estate or income thereof as a due debt before division be made.

"I doe further hereby make my deare & Loveing wife my full and sole executive unto this my last will and testament during the terme of her widowhood. If she shall see cause to change her condition then my will is that she shall take two of her sones whom she shall judge to be best able and most faithfull to Joyne with her in executorship, to the end that no stranger nor sone of a stranger may be admitted into so small a Liveing to the wrong of the propper heires or any of them.

"Lastly my will is that any of my sones as they may be able may and will be helpfull unto their dear mother in what difficulties she may meet withall, and y<sup>t</sup> they live at peace among themselves. And you will have y<sup>e</sup> promise that the god of peace will be with you.

"For consideration hereof I have hereunto set my hand dated the 15 day of April, 1690.

William Auerell.

"As witnesses

John Wills

The marke of

Sarah o8 Wild."

Children, all born in Topsfield except the first :

3 WILLIAM, b. May 1, 1662.

4 NATHANIEL, b. Oct. 13, 1664.

5 JOHN, b. Jan. 1, 1666.

6 JOB, b. Jan. 1, 1666-7.

HANNAH, b. Dec. 18, 1667; d. unm. May 14, 1737.

7 EBENEZER, b. Oct. 14, 1669.

ISAAC, b. Jan. 26, 1671-2; d. June 11, 1680, in Topsfield.

THOMAS, b. Dec. 9, 1672; probably m. Nov. 29, 1712, Abigail Cogswell, in Ipswich; acknowledged a deed in Preston, Conn., May 30, 1724.

ABIGAIL, b. March 8, 1673-4; m., (pub. July 9, 1699) Jonathan Bishop of Beverly. Lived in Beverly until about 1708, when they removed to Rehoboth, where he died in 1752. They acknowledged a deed in Norton, Bristol county, June 2, 1721.





- EZEKIEL, b. July 24, 1675; probably d. young.
- 8 PAUL, b. June 21, 1677.
- SILAS, b. May 1, 1679; probably d. young.
- 9 ISAAC, b. Nov. 10, 1680.
- MARY, bapt. May 16, 1697; m. Feb. 16, 1709-10, Silas Titus of Rehoboth. They acknowledged a deed in Norton, June 2, 1724.

**3 William Averill**, born in Ipswich, May 1, 1662. Lived in Topsfield, and married Mary ———. "Widow Mary Averill died March 14, 1728-9."—*Topsfield Records*. He was admitted to membership in the church, May 24, 1685, and Mar. 11, 1688, was disciplined for intemperance and unseemly behavior in Mr. Wise's church at Ipswich. March 1, 1714/15, the selectmen of Topsfield, agreed with William Averill, jun., to sweep the meeting-house and dig graves, for which service he was to be paid 18 shillings a year and to have the use of half an acre of land "some where near among the Hills to ye Norwest of ye Meeting House," during the lifetime of himself and wife. He was also given "the benefite of ye frute of ye parsonage orchard till the Town have occasion for it."

Children, baptized in Topsfield :

ELIZABETH, bapt. April 7, 1695.

JOSEPH, bapt. March 21, 1696-7.\*

MARY (?) who m. July 9, 1719, at Ipswich, Caleb Jackson of Ashford. The m. is recorded at Topsfield and Ipswich.

STEPHEN, bapt. June 6, 1701. He probably removed to Arundel, Me., with his brother Joseph, where he married and had: Phebe, Rebecca, Sarah and Samuel.

JAMES, bapt. April 11, 1703.

REBECCA, bapt. July 15, 1705.

JABEZ, bapt. June 15, 1707; m. Mary Buxton, and settled in Preston, Conn.

MOSES, bapt. Feb. 26, 1709-10.

**4 Nathaniel Averill**, born in Topsfield, Oct. 13, 1664. He was a carpenter and millwright, and lived in

\*1723-4. Benjamin Kimball and Joseph Averill are in the military service.—*Felt's History of Ipswich*. He probably was living at Arundel, now Kennebunk, Me., in 1728, a joint-owner, with Jacob Wildes, of 450 acres of land, and a saw-mill. There he m. Jane McEllen and had 11 children, 7 of whom died with the throat distemper in 1735. He may have had a brother Samuel, who also lived at Arundel and was cast away on Mount Desert in 1747 and drowned.





Topsfield, where he owned a sawmill. Constable in 1702. He married, first, Dec. 13, 1698, Sarah Howlett. She died July 11, 1729, and he married, second, June 17, 1730, Lydia French. She died May 31, 1746, and he died April 3, 1751.

Children, born in Topsfield:

10 NATHANIEL, b. Sept. 6, 1700.

11 JACOB, b. Aug. 17, 1702.

ABIGAIL, b. Aug. 9, 1704 (bapt. July 16, 1704); m. Dec. 19, 1734, Joseph Hovey; and was living in 1741.

SARAH, b. Feb. 9, 1706; d. unm. Dec. 26, 1784.

MIRIAM, b. July 9, 1709; m. Sept. 17, 1734, Joseph Neland of Topsfield; and was living in 1741.

DANIEL, bapt. Sept. 16, 1711; d. March 6, 1716-17.

JEREMIAH, b. July 21, 1714; shopjoiner and yeoman; lived in Topsfield; tithingman in 1751; constable, 1759; selectman, 1762-1769; treasurer, 1776-1781; he inherited his father's dwelling house, his sister Sarah to have the west chamber so long as she remained unm., which was 33 y. after the probating of the will; d. unm. Sept. 7, 1785.

**5 John Averill**, born in Topsfield, Jan. 1, 1666, was a yeoman and lived in Topsfield. He was known as "Sarg<sup>t</sup>" in 1701, where he was appointed tithingman and was constable in 1711. On Feb. 1, 1692, he and his brother Nathaniel, bought of Gov. Simon Bradstreet, 200 acres of land lying between Howlett brook and Mile brook, the locality that afterwards became known as "The Colleges." The original deed is still in existence. April 7, 1735 his four children, then under age, were placed under the guardianship of John Wildes. Administration was granted on his estate Apr. 13, 1724, to widow "Anna." He married June 8, 1710, Anne\* Greensleet (Greenleaf) of Topsfield and died in the winter of 1719-20. His widow was living in Topsfield in 1741, and may have removed to Andover that year.

\*In the records of births of her children, the name is recorded "Hannah" and in a record of baptism it is given as "Ann."





### Children, born in Topsfield :

- 12 JOHN, b. April 24, 1711.

THOMAS, b. Dec. 17, 1713 ; husbandman ; lived in Topsfield until his marriage, when he removed to Andover ; m. May 20, 1739, Sarah Neland (Kneeland) of Ipswich and had : (1) John, bp. Oct. 25, 1741 ; (2) Thomas, bp. Sept. 27, 1747 ; (3) Sarah, bp. Nov. 3, 1751.

EMMA, bp. May-Aug., 1715 ; m. Samuel Phippen, Sept. 7, 1738.

KATHERINE, bp. Apr. —, 1717 ; m. Dec. 22, 1736, Nathaniel Moulton of Ipswich.

- 13 EBENEZER, bapt. Oct. 1—, 1718.

ABIAL (dau.), bp. May —, 1720 ; posthumous ; d. Aug. 1, 1736.

**6 Job Averill**, born in Topsfield, Jan. 1, 1666-7, was a yeoman, and lived in that part of Topsfield that was incorporated as Middleton in 1728. Was tithingman in 1708. He married Feb. 1, 1702-3, Susanna Brown of Topsfield, and died in 1730 ; his will, dated Feb. 7, 1729-30, was proved June 1, 1730. Administration was granted on her estate Dec. 16, 1732.

### Children, born in Topsfield:

JOB, b. Aug. 11, 1707 ; husbandman ; removed from Middleton to Arundel, York county, Me., in 1734 ; was of Arundel in 1737, and of Sheepscot, York county, gentleman, in 1742 ; m. Sarah — before 1737. Had : William and Sarah both bapt. Aug. 14, 1748, at Middleton.

JUDITH, b. May 4, 1710 ; m. Apr. 20, 1732, Samuel Foster.

- 14 ISRAEL, b. April 21, 1713.

KEZIA, b. May 6, 1715 ; m. June 27, 1754, Jonathan Whipple of Danvers.

- 15 SAMUEL, b. June 7, 1720.

SUSANNA, bapt. Sept. —, 1722 ; d. Dec. 26, 1736.

EZEKIEL, b. in 1724. On Feb. 26, 1739, at the age of fourteen, he was placed under the guardianship of Francis Peabody of Middleton.

**7 Ebenezer Averill**, born in Topsfield, Oct. 14, 1669, was a husbandman and lived in Topsfield ; was constable in 1701 and selectman in 1704, 1705, 1707, 1708, 1710, 1713, 1715 and 1716. He married, first, Nov. 30, 1697, Susanna Hovey. She died Nov. 11, 1699, and he married, second, Dec. 31, 1700, Mehitable Foster of Ipswich. He died Dec. 22, 1717, and his wife, Mehitable





died Nov. 19, 1740. In the record of his death he is styled "Sargt". His inventory states that some of the things were reserved for "Luke the sunn of Susannah his first wife that came from Engld."

Children, born in Topsfield:

SUSANNAH, d. Nov. 11, 1699.

16 LUKE, b. Aug. 2, 1699.

MEHITABLE, b. Apr. 26, 170-; bapt. May 2, 1703; m. April 12, 1726, Matthew Peabody, and d. June 6, 1740.

SUSANNAH, b. July 22, 170-; bapt. July 23, 1704; d. in Topsfield, unm. Sept. 2, 1749.

RUTH, b. June 9, 1706; d. unm. before 1729.

HANNAH, b. Feb. 13, 1707-8; m. John Howlett of Ipswich, July 18, 1728 and was his widow in 1749.

MARY, b. Aug. 15, 1710; m. Feb. 24, 1729-30, Nathaniel Porter and d. Dec. 23, 1736.

LYDIA, b. Dec. 11, 1712; m. July 28, 1731, Daniel Gould of Topsfield, husbandman, and d. Dec. 22, 1739.

JEMIMA, b. Apr. 25, 1715; m. Feb. 14, 1737-8, John Perkins, jr., and d. March 2, 1749.

PHEBE, b. Nov. 23, 1717; m. 1st, Nov. 13, 1753, Isaac Dodge of Wenham; m. 2nd, — Brown.

**8 Paul Averill**, born in Topsfield, June 21, 1677, was a husbandman, and lived in that part of Topsfield incorporated as Middleton in 1728. He married, first, Mar. 27, 1706, Sarah, daughter of Capt. Joseph and Sarah (Perley) Andrews. She died Oct. 16, 1732, aged forty-seven, and he married, second, Feb. 3, 1736-7, widow Mary Simonds of Wenham. They were living in Middleton in 1747, and were dismissed Aug. 5, 1753, to the church in Killingly, Conn.

Children, born in Topsfield:

EZEKIEL, b. March 13, 1707-8.

HEPHSIBAH, b. Nov. 8, 1709; m. Dec. 13, 1733, Robert Bradford.

17 PAUL, b. Dec. 16, 1711.

SARAH, b. April 2, 1713; d. unm. in Middleton, Jan. 20, 1736.

JOSEPH, b. Jan. 17, 1719-20; m. Feb. 14, 1743-4, Mary Symonds of Topsfield. He was then of Killingly. A Joseph Symonds m. Sarah Mansfield, Dec. 24, 1745, at Middleton, and had Dudley, bp. —, 1746. Joseph Averill, housewright, of Uxbridge in 1741, is mentioned in Essex Co. Deeds.

Uxbridge in 1741, is mentioned in James Co. Deeds.

DOBNEY, SR. — 1746. Joseph Averill, housewright, of  
m. Sarah Mansfield, Dec. 24, 1746, at Middletown, and had  
Joseph, b. Jan. 17, 1749-50; m. Feb. 14, 1748-4, Mary Symonds  
of Topsfield. He was then of Killingly. A Joseph Symonds  
Larkin, b. April 2, 1713; 5. m. in Middletown, Jan. 30, 1738.  
17 FAY, P. Dec. 16, 1711.  
HEPURNAL, b. Nov. 8, 1709; m. Dec. 12, 1738, Robert Bradford.  
Ezekiel, b. March 12, 1707-8.

Children, born in Topsfield:

church in Killingly, Conn.  
ton in 1747, and were dismissed Aug. 5, 1753, to the  
Mary Simonds of Woburn. They were living in Middle-  
seven, and he married, second, Feb. 8, 1730-7, widow  
(Perley) Andrews. She died Oct. 16, 1732, aged forty-  
Mar. 21, 1706, Sarah, daughter of Capt. Joseph and Sarah  
incorporated as Middletown in 1728. He married, first,  
was a husbandman, and lived in that part of Topsfield  
8 Paul Averill, born in Topsfield, June 21, 1677.

Woburn; m. 2nd, — Brown.

FURNE, b. Nov. 28, 1717; m. 1st, Nov. 12, 1736, Isaac Dodge of  
and 6. March 2, 1742.  
JENNIS, b. Apr. 23, 1710; m. Feb. 14, 1737-8, John Parkins, jr.,  
held, husbandman, and 5. Dec. 22, 1738.  
LYDIA, b. Dec. 11, 1712; m. July 22, 1731, Daniel Gould of Top-  
and 6. Dec. 22, 1738.  
MARY, b. Aug. 15, 1719; m. Feb. 24, 1738-39, Nathaniel Porter  
16, 1732 and was his widow in 1742.  
HARRIS, b. Feb. 16, 1707-8; m. John Howatt of Ipswich, July  
RUTH, b. June 6, 1700; 4. m. before 1729.  
SUSANNA, b. July 22, 1701; 6. m. before 1729; 4. in Topsfield,  
1730, Matthew Peabody, and 6. June 6, 1730.  
MINTURN, b. Apr. 25, 1701; 6. m. May 2, 1702; m. April 12,  
10 LARK, b. Aug. 2, 1698.  
SUSANNA, b. Nov. 11, 1699.

Children, born in Topsfield:

wife that came from England."  
were reserved for "Luke the son of Susannah his first  
"Sark". His inventory states that some of the things  
died Nov. 19, 1746. In the record of his death he is styled



**9 Isaac Averill**, born in Topsfield, Nov. 10, 1680, married, May 16, 1709, in Rehoboth, Mass., Esther, daughter of Philip Walker, jr., of that town. Isaac Averill was "an ingenious Carpenter," and framed in Providence, R. I., the largest meeting house of his time. As a resident of Preston, Conn., he acknowledged a deed on May 30, 1724, and for many years lived in that town. Before 1748 he removed to Kent, Conn.

Children, all born in Preston, Conn. :

**SAMUEL**, b. —, 1715; m. Patience Perry at Rehoboth, Mass. He purchased of the Indians on July 20, 1749, land in Washington, Conn., where he lived and d. April 30, 1786, at 71 years.

**DANIEL**, b. —, 1716; d. Oct. 23, 1785, in New Preston; m. Lucy, dau. of Edward Cogswell of Ipswich. Lived at New Preston. Miller and public man.

**MOSES**, b. —, 1723-4; d. Jan. 22, 1784, in New Preston; m. Martha, dau. of Edward Cogswell of Ipswich. Lived in what is now Washington, Conn. Captain in the militia, deacon in the church and representative in the legislature.

**LUCY**.

**JUDITH**, b. —; d. May 18, 1774, in New Preston.

**10 Capt. Nathaniel Averill**, born in Topsfield, Sept. 6, 1700, was a housewright, and lived in Topsfield. Selectman in 1747, 1748. He married, Nov. 24, 1743, Hannah Wildes, and died Aug. 17, 1781. She died June 4, 1785, aged seventy-five. At the probating of his will he was styled "gentlemen." After his wife's decease his books were to be divided equally among his two children. Estate inventoried £458.14.10 and included surveying instruments, 36/.

Children, born in Topsfield:

**18 NATHANIEL**, b. April 27, 1747.

**HANNAH**, b. Aug. 17, 1750; m. Nov. 18, 1773, John Lovering, 3d, of Ipswich, husbandman; they were living in Ipswich in 1787.

**11 Jacob Averill**, born in Topsfield, Aug. 17, 1702, was a yeoman and lived in Topsfield. He was a tithing-man in 1736, 1742, and 1757; constable in 1746; and





selectman from 1752 to 1755. He married Priscilla, daughter of Ephraim and Mary Wildes, and died June 15 (June 14, church rds.), 1791. By his will he bequeathed to his sons Daniel and Amos, his carpenter's tools "where-soever they may be found." His wife died May 17 (May 22, church rds.), 1799, aged 94 years.

Children, born in Topsfield :

- JACOB**, b. Mar. 18, 1728-9; cabinet-maker and joiner; lived in Topsfield; m. Nov. 23, 1752, Hannah Bryant. He d. Sept. 14, 1807 and she d. Feb. 24, 1813. "Joanna, the widow of Jacob, struck with numb palsey in the summer of 1785, and remained dead on one side till she died."
- 19 **DANIEL**, b. Dec. 3, 1730.
- DOROTHY**, b. Feb. 24, 1731-2; m. Nov. 8, 1752, David Prichard. He died in 1756, in the French and Indian War, and in her father's will, dated May 30, 1791, she was given the right to occupy "the west chamber . . . till she is otherwise provided for." She d. Jan. 30, 1822.
- LYDIA**, b. July 2, 1735; m. Jan. 15, 1767, Richard Potter, jr., of Ipswich.
- MARY**, b. Aug. 1, 1739; d. unm., Oct. 5, 1826, at the almshouse.
- PRISCILLA**, b. July 1, 1742; d. March 29, 1781.
- AMOS**, b. March 25, 1747; yeoman; lived in Topsfield; soldier in the Revolution, marching to Lexington and also seeing other service; m. Nov. 6, 1774, Lydia Batchelder of Wenham and d. suddenly April 11, 1805. She d. Mar. 20, 1831, at the almshouse.

12 **John Averill**, born in Topsfield, April 24, 1711, was a husbandman, and lived in Topsfield until about 1740, when he removed to Groton, Mass. In 1751, he again removed to Westminster, Vt., where he died, Sept. 2, 1797. He married, May 7, 1735, Mary Phippen. She died in Westminster, Vt., in 1809, "in the 95<sup>th</sup> year of her age."

Children :

- MARY**, bapt. March 14, 1735-6, Topsfield; m. — Rockwood.
- ABIAL**, bapt. Nov. 26, 1738, Topsfield; m. John Abby.
- ASA**, b. —, 1739; m. 1st, Anna Chaffee; m. 2nd, the widow of Peter Lovejoy; m. 3rd, — Nall.
- THOMAS**, b. —, 1745; m. Nov. 3, 1774, Elizabeth Robinson.





SAMUEL, b. —, 1746 (?); m. 1st, Molly Barnes; m. 2nd, the widow Washburn.

JOHN, b. —, 1748; m. Olive Estabrook.

ANNA, b. —, 1751; m. Peter Lovejoy. She was the first white child, born in Westminster, Vt.

AMY, m. Robert Rand.

OLIVE, m. William Martin.

**13 Ebenezer Averill**, baptized in Topsfield, Oct. 1—, 1718, was a husbandman, and lived in Topsfield until about 1760 when he removed to Amherst, N. H., where he was living in 1771. He married, April 5, 1748; Mary Towne and she was his wife in 1771.

Children, baptized in Topsfield :

RUTH, bapt. Jan. 1, 1748-9.

EBENEZER, bapt. Dec. 22, 1751; lived in Amherst; pub. Oct. 3, 1775, to Anna Johnson of Danvers.

DAVID, bapt. April 13, 1755.

ELIJAH, bapt. May 29, 1757.

**14 Israel Averill**, born in Topsfield, April 21, 1713, married in Middleton, June 11, 1735, Mary Kenney. He was a husbandman and lived in Middleton until about 1752, when he removed to Topsfield and was taxed there until 1759. An Israel Averil of Pownalborough, Me., yeoman, and wife Mary, sold land in Manchester, Mass., in 1767.—*Essex Co. Deeds.*

Children:

HULDAH, bapt. —, 1736, in Middleton.

MARY, bapt. —, 1739, in Middleton; m. April 13, 1759, Archelaus Kenney.

SUSANNA, bp. —, 1742, in Middleton.

ENOCH, bp. —, 1744, in Middleton; m. Ruth Hilton of Pownalborough, Me.

DAVID, bp. —, 1747, in Middleton; m. Elizabeth Hilton, sister of the above.

RUTH, bapt. Dec. 17, 1749, in Middleton; m. in Pownalborough, Me.

EUNICE, bapt. Feb. 25, 1753, in Topsfield.

ISRAEL, bapt. June 13, 1756, in Topsfield.





**15 Samuel Averill**, born in Topsfield, June 7, 1720, was a blacksmith and lived in Middleton. He married, Sept. 3, 1742, Martha Clemens of Salem, and died about 1756, administration being granted on his estate, Jan. 17, 1757. She survived him, and married, secondly, Nov. 27, 1764, Michael Dwinnell of Topsfield. He died Sept. 19, 1770, and she married, third, April 4, 1774, Samuel Carter of Manchester.

Children, born in Middleton:

SUSANNA, b. Aug. 8, 1743.

ELIZABETH, b. April —, 1745; probably m. Feb. 20, 1766, John Nichols of Middleton.

20 BENJAMIN, b. Jan., 1747.

EZEKIEL, b. Feb. 14, 1748.

SAMUEL, b. March 18, 1749. In 1765, he is named as a beneficiary in the will of David Balch and is mentioned as a "minor who lived with me." A short time before the making of the will his mother had m. 2d, Michael Dwinell, a cousin of David Balch's wife.

LUCY, b. Dec. 18, 1752; m. May 7, 1772, Abijah Wilkins. They removed to Amherst, N. H., where she d. before Sept. 30, 1788, when he m. 2nd, Sarah Farmer, of Manchester.

ABIGAIL, b. Dec. 10, 1754; d. Sept. 21, 1851, in Beverly; m. 1st, May 30, 1790, Samuel Carter; m. 2nd, William Tarbell.

**16 Luke Averill**, born in Topsfield, Aug. 2, 1699, was a yeoman, and lived in Topsfield. Constable in 1730; tithingman, 1739, 1756, 1760, 1765, 1769; member of school committee in 1751, was mentioned on the town records in 1756, as "Lieut." Luke Averill. In his will he gives to his widow, "half of the dwelling house from cellar to top," and annually, as long as she remains his widow, the following:—8 cords firewood, ready for the fire; 120 weight pork; 50 weight beef; 3 pecks salt; 1 bushel turnips; 1 bushel potatoes; 1-2 bushel beans; 8 bushels Indian corn; 2 bushels rye; 1 bushel winter apples; 8 lbs. sheep's wool; 15 lb. flax; 1 barrell "cyder;" 1 1-2 bushels malt; a small garden; two cows to be well kept summer and winter; use of horse to ride to meeting and elsewhere; 2 gals. molasses; 2 gals. rum, and cost and charge of doctor and nurse in case of sickness. At





the probating of his will he is styled "gentleman." He married Sarah, daughter of Isaac and Sarah Peabody; and died April 16, 1776. She died May 22, 1790, æt. 84 y. Children, born in Topsfield :

RUTH, b. Feb. 18, 1727-8; d. Jan. 16, 1747-8.

MARY, b. July 14, 1730; d. May 1, 1737.

MOSES, b. Jan. 25, 1732-3; d. May 3, 1737.

EBENEZER, b. Jan. 18, 1735-6. (Eleser, a youth, s. Luke, d. June 8, 1747.)

MOSES, b. Aug. 12, 1738; d. July 7, 1739.

21 ISAAC, b. June 2, 1740.

ELIJAH, b. March 14, 1742-3; d. Feb. 4, 1747-8.

SUSANNAH, b. Aug. 14, 1746; m. March 31, 1772, David Towne, jr.; and d. Oct. 24, 1836.

**17 Paul Averill**, born in Topsfield, Dec. 16, 1711, was a husbandman, and lived in Middleton. He married April 21, 1737,\* Zeruah How, and died in the winter of 1805-6, his will, dated Dec. 9, 1796, being proved Feb. 3, 1806.

Children, born in Middleton :

SARAH, b. July 26, 1738; d. Jan. 20, 1739-40.

JOHN, b. Jan. 2, 1740; m. Mary Bradford; b. 1742 in Middleton and d. Aug. 21, 1815; he d. May 21, 1815. Settled in Amherst, N. H. in 1763. Children : Naomi; Daniel; Mary, m. Benjamin Symonds; Anna, m. ——— McAllister; John; Jesse, m. and had John, who m. Clarissa Peabody of Middleton, and had one son, Nathaniel P. who d. Mar. 17, 1877 in Middleton.

22 PAUL, b. Sept. 27, 1742.

23 ELIJAH, b. April 28, 1745.

24 MARK, b. May 12, 1747.

SARAH, b. July 28, 1750; m. Daniel Stiles, Sept. 25, 1771; d. Sept. 20, 1805, in Middleton.

MARY, b. May 11, 1752; m. Feb. 14, 1771, Stephen Towne, jr. and removed to Sunderland, Vt. in 1786.

25 JOSEPH, b. Oct. 6, 1757.

**18 Nathaniel Averill**, born in Topsfield, April 27, 1747, was a yeoman and wheelwright, and lived in Topsfield. Soldier in the Revolution, marching to Lexington.

\*He may have married, 1st, Feb. 3, 1736, at Wenham, Mary Symonds of Wenham.





Selectmen in 1780-1784. He married, first, Dec. 16, 1766, Dorothy Perkins. She died May 6, 1767 "in her 18th year," and he married, second, Oct. 1, 1776, Hannah, daughter of Ephraim and Hepsibah Wildes. He died May 17, 1811, and his wife Hannah, survived him, dying Oct. 28, 1816, aged sixty-seven.

Children, born in Topsfield :

26 NATHANIEL PERKINS, b. May 1, 1767.

27 AZARIAH, b. Feb. 11, 1778.

AMMI, b. Aug. 17, 1779; lived in Topsfield; yeoman; and d., unm. April 18, 1822. By will dated July 15, 1816, he bequeathed his entire estate to "Mehitable, the present wife of my brother Moses."

LYDIA, b. March 3, 1782; d. Nov. 27, 1859; m. Sept. 25, 1806, Ebenezer Towne of Topsfield.

DOROTHY, bapt. April 2, 1784; m. Feb. 24, 1818, Abraham Gage. Lived in Middleton, where she d. June 5, 1861.

28 MOSES, b. June 5, 1786.

19 Daniel Averill, born in Topsfield, Dec. 3, 1730, was a yeoman, and lived in Topsfield. He married Joanna Hood, Feb. 27, 1759; and died March 4, 1801. She died Dec. 12, 1816, "occasioned by falling into the fire."

Children, born in Topsfield :

SARAH, b. June 20, 1760; d. unm. Feb. 8, 1839, of cancer.

29 DANIEL, b. June 12, 1762.

SOLOMON, b. Sept. 1, 1765; d. April 1, 1766.

JOANNA, b. March 7, 1767; probably m. Nov. 23, 1786, Thomas Willis (Wildes?). When her father made his will in 1800 she is mentioned as the wife of "Shays."

30 SOLOMON, b. Aug. 20, 1769.

MEHITABLE, b. Aug. 16, 1774; m. Nov. 15, 1793, Silas Beckford, and d. Sept. 1, 1845.

20 Benjamin Averill\* born in Middleton, Jan. 17, 1747, married, 1st, in Ipswich, Nov. 9, 1769, Sarah Blye, she died and he married, 2nd (int. Dec. 21, 1772), Mrs. Mary, widow of John Pitman, and daughter of Dr. Francis and Mary Holmes. By trade a "Leather Breeches maker." He was a soldier in the Revolution, enlisting in

\*1778, John Chapman, glover, was succeeded by his apprentices, P. Rust and B. Averill.—*Felt's History of Ipswich*.





1780 for 6 months. He was 5 ft. 7 in. tall and of a light complexion. He lived in Ipswich and died about 1782.

Children by first wife:

- 31 BENJAMIN, b. Oct. 9, 1770, in Middleton (baptized Dec. 16, 1770 in Ipswich).

FRANCIS HOLMES. His name was afterwards changed to Francis Holmes. Lived in Boston. Married; had 4 children.

Child by second wife:

PEGGY, bp. Nov. 18, 1781, in Ipswich.

21 Lieut. Isaac Averill, born in Topsfield, June 2, 1740, was a carpenter and lived in Topsfield. In the inventory of his estate were surveying instruments, buildings and 160 ac. of land and a pew in the meeting house, \$100. Constable in 1771; selectman, 1778, 1779, 1790-1792, 1794, 1795. He was styled "Lieut." in 1791. Soldier in the Revolution, marching to Lexington. He married Dec. 22, 1761, Priscilla Peabody; and died June 23, 1816. She died Feb. 4, 1815, ae. 71 years.

Children, born in Topsfield:

- 32 ELIJAH, b Dec. 21, 1762.

JOSEPH, b. Oct. 28, 1764; m. Dec. 24, 1801, Eunice, dau. John and Anna Lamson. She d. Apr. 8, 1850 aged 77 years and he d. Dec. 31, 1850. Inherited his father's "French gun." Lived in Topsfield and was popularly known as "Neighbor Joe."

ISAAC, b. Aug. 2, 1767; d. Sept. 20, 1800.\*

- 33 MOSES, bapt. Oct. 1, 1769.

PHEBE, bapt. May 3, 1772; m. (pub. March 6, 1796), John Batchelder, jr., and d. Sept. 26, 1839.

- 34 LUKE, bapt. Nov. 21, 1779. "It being the first Child ye Revd Mr Breck Bp. after his ordination."—*Church Rds.*

\*"DIED. At Topsfield, Sept. 20th, after a short illness, Isaac Averell, jun. A. M. aged 33—Candidate for the Gospel Ministry. He had received a call for settlement from the church and society in Brookfield, South parish, and had given them an affirmative answer. The 1st day of October next was assigned for his ordination. His numerous acquaintance will long remember him as a man of friendship, sobriety and virtue; and by his death the people whose choice united in him as their servant in the Lord are subjected to a very afflictive disappointment. 'O fallacem hominum spem, fragilemque fortunam.'"—*Salem Gazette*, Sept. 23, 1800.



**22 Paul Averill**, born in Middleton, Sept. 27, 1742, was a yeoman, and lived in Andover. Soldier in the Revolution, marching to Lexington. He married March 10, 1772, Deborah Foster in Andover; and died in 1804; his wife probably died Dec. 27, 1826.

Children :

**JOHN**, bp. Nov. 23, 1772 in Andover; d. young.

**JOHN**, b. Nov. 16, 1776; yeoman; lived in Andover; m. Nov. 13, 1794, Betsey Austin; he d. Dec. 7, 1818; and she d. Nov. 13, 1826, aged 54 years. Had: Elizabeth, b. Mar. 10, 1795.

**DEBORAH**, m. Moses Wilkins of Middleton, Feb. 19, 1793.

**BETSEY**, bp. Oct. 24, 1790, in Andover; m. (int. Dec. 20, 1810)' James Pettingill.

**23 Elijah Averill**, born in Middleton, April 28, 1745, was a cordwainer, and bought, in 1775, the farm in Boxford (lately in the occupation of George Perley) on which he settled. He married Jan. 4, 1776, Hannah Perkins. Administration was granted on his estate Nov. 5, 1782; and his wife survived him, marrying, secondly, Joseph Peabody, 2d, May 25, 1790. She died in Middleton, Mar. 17, 1825.

Child, born in Boxford :

**HANNAH**, b. March 16, 1777; d., unm. in Middleton, Nov. 20, 1801, at the age of twenty-four, being affianced to Jonathan Kenney.

**24 Mark Averill**, born in Middleton, May 12, 1747, was a yeoman, and succeeded his father on the homestead





in Middleton, where he was living in 1798. He married June 8, 1775, Dorcas Foster of Andover.

Children, born in Middleton :

JOHN, b. Feb. 27, 1776; m. Dec. 29, 1825, Sarah A. Porter of Andover, where they lived. No children. He d. June —, 1838, she d. July 8, 1859.

EPHRAIM, b. April 2, 1780; m. May 23, 1825, Sally Tapley of Lynnfield. Lived in Derry, N. H. No children.

ELIJAH, b. Dec. 10, 1789; m. Lived in Litchfield, N. H. Had a son and perhaps other children.

FOSTER, b. Sept. 20, 1792; m. Martha R——, and had Henry (drowned); John, lived in Londonderry, N. H.; Mason, lived in Londonderry, N. H.; Ephraim, lived in Missouri; Dorcas, m. ——— Grant, and lived in Gilmantown, N. H.; Sarah, m. Lewis Stiles and lived in Lowell; Eda Ann, m. ——— Ballou, and lived in Alexandria.

**25 Joseph Averill**, born in Middleton, Oct. 6, 1757, was a yeoman, and lived in Middleton. He married, first Dec. 12, 1780, Susanna Pettingill of Andover. She died in Middleton, Sept. 20, 1813, aged fifty-seven; and he married, second, (int. Apr. 10, 1814), Mrs. Rachel (Lefavour) Pettengill, widow of Moses Pettengill. He died in Middleton, Dec. 9, 1816; and she died Dec. 24, 1846, in Middleton, aged 68 years.

Children, born in Middleton :

35 BENJAMIN, b. Feb. 22, 1781.

MOLLY, b. Jan. 3, 1783; m. Nov. 5, 1805, Moses Stiles of Boxford, and was living in 1816.

BETSEY, b. Oct. 13, 1786; d. in Middleton, unm. Nov. 3, 1814.

SUSANNA, b. Oct. 20, 1789; d. Jan. 16, 1792.

35A JOSEPH, b. Dec. 15, 1792.

SUSANNA, b. March 6, 1795; m. Jan. 11, 1816, Ebenezer Nichols of Reading. Lived in South Danvers, now Peabody.

**26 Nathaniel Perkins Averill**, born in Topsfield, May 1, 1767, was a yeoman, and lived in Topsfield. Selectman in 1801, 1802. He married April 12, 1791, Hannah, daughter Thomas and Margaret Wood. She died Sept. 13, 1816, aged 53 years.





## Children, born in Topsfield :

STEPHEN P., b. Jan. 16, 1792; m. Dec. 13, 1818, at Danvers, Annah Moore of Topsfield. She d. Jan. 16, 1838, of consumption, aged 40 years.

DOLLY, b. Nov. 18; 1794; d. unm. Dec. 3, 1879 at Salem.

36 THOMAS, b. March 21, 1798.

37 NATHANIEL PERKINS, b. Oct. 25, 1803.

38 AARON PERKINS, b. May, 1810.

**27 Azariah Averill**, born in Topsfield, Feb. 11, 1778; married, Sept. 10, 1799, Sarah A., daughter of Jacob and Rachel Towne. She died in Salem, a widow, Sept. 6, 1842. Lived in Topsfield, Beverly and Salem.

## Children:

SARAH, b. Aug. 3, 1800, in Topsfield; m. Feb. 9, 1829, John Sawyer.

HIRAM, b. Aug. 3, 1802, at Topsfield; d. at sea, aged 17.

IRENE A., b. Aug. 23, 1804, in Topsfield; m. Feb. 10, 1833, Humphrey G. Hubbard of Topsfield.

MARY, b. Feb. 25, 1807, in Beverly; m. (int. May 10, 1829), William R. Hubbard of Topsfield.

ELIZA, b. Feb. 25, 1807, in Beverly; d. Nov. 8, 1831; m. July 1, 1830, Humphrey G. Hubbard of Topsfield.

MOSES, b. Oct. 9, 1809, in Beverly; d. June 3, 1848, in Danvers.

39 EPHRAIM, b. Feb. 28, 1813, in Topsfield.

RACHEL, b. April 16, 1816, in Salem; m. Nov. 28, 1832, Samuel Clifford of Topsfield.

**28 Moses Averill**, born June 5, 1786, in Topsfield; married, Oct. 18, 1808, Mehitable Merrill of New Rowley, now Georgetown.

## Children :

MOSES, b. Oct. 8, 1808, in Topsfield; d. Nov. 4, 1808.

SALINDA, b. Aug. 18, 1809, in Topsfield; unm.

40 ROYAL AUGUSTUS, b. May 10, 1811, in Topsfield; m. and lived in Stoneham.

HANNAH, b. June 3, 1813, in Topsfield; m. Mar. 13, 1832, Capt. Simon F. Estey; lived in Middleton.

ELIZABETH B., b. May 14, 1816, in Topsfield; m. Oct. 24, 1841, Joseph N. Pope of Topsfield; no children.

JOHN MERRILL, b. Mar. 22, 1826, in Middleton; shoemaker; d. unm. May 9, 1846, in Middleton; buried in Lynn.



- 41 **MOSES ABBA**, b. Dec. 20, 1827 (1828. Danvers Rds.), in Middleton.

**ENOCH FAULKNER**, b. April 13, 1830, in Middleton; m. Anna S. Hatch; lived in Lynn, where he d. in 1906.

**MEHITABLE MERRILL**, b. Aug. 1, 1833, in Middleton; d. unm. Nov. 3, 1897. Lived in Lynn. "Was a physician of good repute."

**29 Daniel Averill**, born in Topsfield, June 12, 1762, was a husbandman, and lived in Topsfield; soldier in the Revolution. He married, July 7, 1795, Betsey Clinton. She was born in Danvers. He died Jan. 11, 1845, and she died Dec. 10, 1854, at the almshouse, aged 80 years.

Children:

**DANIEL**, b. Jan. 3, 1796; d. April 6, 1833.

**JACOB**, b. Feb. 26, 1799; d. unm. Dec. 21, 1837. Was insane the later part of his life.

**EUNICE**, b. June 4, 1805; m. (int. Oct. 2, 1825), Lieut. William MacKenzie of Waltham, Vt.

**NABBY**, b. Nov. 18, 1807; m. Sept. 27, 1830, Samuel Beckford.

**30 Solomon Averill**, born in Topsfield, Aug. 20, 1769, was a farmer, and lived in Topsfield. He married, March 11, 1794, Anna, daughter of John and Anna Towne of Boxford, and died Feb. 23, 1855. She died March 24, 1851, aged 83 years.

Children, born in Topsfield:

**ANNIS**, b. May 6, 1795; m. Oct. 7, 1818, Samuel Blaisdell.

**ASA**, b. Nov. 16, 1797; m., and lived in Reading.

- 42 **CYRUS**, b. Oct. 30, 1802.

**31 Benjamin Averill**, born in Middleton, Oct. 9, 1770; married, Oct. 15, 1791, Elizabeth, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Lord) Andrews of Ipswich. Cooper. Lived in Ipswich. At his father's death, Stephen Dutch of Ipswich was appointed his guardian. Served on a privateer during the Revolution, securing \$500 prize money. Was "Ensign" in the militia in 1800. He died in Ipswich, Feb. 6, 1841, and she died Aug. 30, 1843, aged 73 years.





## Children, born in Ipswich:

A daughter, b. and d. Oct. 26, 1791.

ELIZABETH, b. April 15, 1793; d. unm. Aug. 17, 1872, in Ipswich.

43 BENJAMIN, b. June 20, 1796; d. April 9, 1872.

JOSEPH, b. Sept. 11, 1800; d. Sept. 20, 1800.

SARAH, b. Aug. 28, 1801; d. Dec. 3, 1828; m. July 23, 1820, Israel K. Jewett of Ipswich; 7 children.

44 JAMES KIMBALL, b. Mar. 19, 1804.

LUCY ANN, b. May 6, 1807; d. unm. Sept. 2, 1824.

45 WARREN, b. July 6, 1809.

46 WILLIAM TARBELL, b. April 13, 1811.

**32 Elijah Averill**, born in Topsfield, Dec. 21, 1762, was a housewright, and lived in Topsfield. Selectman in 1798. He received, in 1776, by will from his grandfather, "the sword that was my Father's," i. e., Ebenezer Averill, born 1669. He married, May 6, 1788, Mary Gould, daughter Maj. Joseph and Elizabeth Gould. She died Sept. 7, 1797, æ. 36 years, and he died Aug. 4, 1813. In his inventory of estate were pump making tools, \$18.00.

## Children:

MARY, b. Feb. 11, 1789; d. June 26, 1876; m. Nov. 30, 1809, John Gould, 3d.

PRISCILLA, b. May 17, 1792; d. Aug. 12, 1872, in Beverly; m. Sept. 22, 1812, Capt. John Lamson.

ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 4, 1797; d. Nov. 21, 1895; m. (int. Oct. 12, 1834), Dr. John Porter of Wenham. At time of m. she was of Boston.

**33 Moses Averill**, baptized in Topsfield, Oct. 1, 1769, married, Dec. 15, 1796, Sarah Clarke, and died July 29, 1798.\* She married, 2nd, Nov. 6, 1831, Capt. Joseph Sawyer, and died, June 2, 1841, aged 69 years.

## Children, born in Topsfield:

Infant twin children, d. between Oct. 10-Nov. 30, 1797.

SARAH, b. Sept. 23, 1798; living in 1814.

\*DIED. At Topsfield, Mr. Moses Averill, aged 29; who, in the various relations of life, exhibited an amiable succession of the social and christian virtues.—*Salem Gazette*, Aug. 7, 1798.





**34 Luke Averill**, born in Topsfield, Sept. 20, 1779; married Dec. 21, 1813, Sally, daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Batchelder) Foster of Rowley; she died April 11, 1873, aged 78. He was a yeoman and lived at "The Colleges." He was run over by a wagon and killed, July 20, 1821. In the inventory of his estate appears the item: "cavalry equipments."

Children, born in Topsfield:

MEHITABLE FOSTER, b. March 28, 1814; d. Jan., 1899 in Reading, Mass.; m. March 28, 1833, Benjamin F. Adams of Topsfield.

LYDIA ANN, b. May 20, 1816; d. Sept. 25, 1847; m. April 22, 1840 in Ipswich, Israel Wildes, afterwards of Topsfield.

ISAAC NEWTON, b. Aug. 7, 1819; m. 1st, May 17, 1849, Mary S., dau. of Asa and Selina Bradstreet of Georgetown. She d. Dec. 28, 1851, aged 29, having had one child: Lydia Ann, b. July 9, 1851; d. Sept. 11, 1851, at Ipswich. He m. 2d, March 19, 1857, Mary E., dau. of John C. and Elizabeth Wilson of Annapolis, N. S. She d. Aug. 20, 1880, aged 62. Shoe operative; lived in Topsfield where he d. Oct. 29, 1906.

**35 Benjamin Averill**, born Feb. 22, 1781, in Middleton; married, June 2, 1808, Hannah, daughter of Andrew and Ruth (Curtis) Peabody of Middleton. She was born Aug. 22, 1783, and died Feb. 4, 1854. He died Aug. 13, 1849.

Children, all born in Middleton:

HANNAH, b. Sept. 23, 1808; d. unm. May 8, 1884.

RUTH, b. Oct. 4, 1810; d. Apr. 21, 1891; m. 1st, Apr. 2, 1835, Barzillai Gould; 2 children. He d. Oct. 24, 1848 and she m. 2d, Dec. 10, 1856, Rev. John Gillingham of Bradford and Warren, N. H.

47 BENJAMIN, b. June 30, 1812.

48 ANDREW PEABODY, b. June 5, 1815.

49 JOSEPH, b. March 31, 1818.

EBENEZER HUBBARD, b. Feb. 4, 1820; d. Sept. 30, 1849.

50 EDWARD PUTNAM, b. Nov. 23, 1821.

ALFRED AUGUSTUS, b. Mar. 8, 1825; m. Mar. 15, 1868, Martha J., dau. of Samuel W. and Polly (Gould) Weston. She was b. June 26, 1838, and d. Oct. 22, 1908 in Middleton.





**35a Joseph Averill**, born in Middleton, Dec. 15, 1792, was a farmer, and lived in that part of Andover that afterwards became North Andover. He married May 23, 1819, Elizabeth Averill, probably daughter of John and Betsey (Austin) Averill. She died Nov. 18, 1851 and he died Mar. 5, 1876.

Children, born in Andover :

ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 27, 1819.

JOHN, b. July 18, 1821; m. Oct. 31, 1854, Fidelia, dau. Jacob and Susanna Berry of Andover.

JOSEPH, b. Aug. 18, 1824; farmer; lived in North Andover; m. 1st, Nov. 18, 1856, Susan M. Perley of Boxford. She d. June 21, 1871, and he m. 2d, July 10, 1873, Eunice B. Perley, sister of his first wife. He d. Sept. 24, 1887 and she d. July 13, 1892. Had: (1) George Leonard, b. July 28, 1859; m. Dec. 20, 1883, Elvira Lake Towne of Topsfield. Farmer and lives in North Andover; (2) Mary Lizzie, b. Mar. 31, 1861; m. Apr. 9, 1895, Charles Walter Paul; (3) Florence Maria, b. Sept. 24, 1865.

GEORGE D., b. Sept. 10, 1830; shoemaker; d. unm. July 9, 1852.

**36 Thomas Averill**, born in Topsfield, March 21, 1798; married, Sept. 6, 1827, Sophronia, daughter of Dominick and Sarah (Perkins) Moore. She died May 2, 1874. Shoemaker and farmer; lived in Topsfield and died May 8, 1846.

Children, all born in Topsfield :

A CHILD, b. Feb. 4, 1828; d. Feb. 6, 1828.

51 THOMAS LEVERETT, b. Nov. 1, 1829.

52 EDWARD AUGUSTUS, b. May 3, 1832.

MARY ELLEN, b. June 15, 1835; m. — Patch,

GEORGE FRANKLIN, b. Jan. 6, 1844; m. Oct. 3, 1866, Lodie A., dau. of Daniel and Fanny (Small) Towne. Farmer and cider manufacturer. Soldier in Civil War; 6 mos. service in Co. B, 7th Mass. Vols. and 100 days service in Co. I, 6th Mass. Vols.

**37 Nathaniel Perkins Averill**, born in Topsfield, Oct. 25, 1803, married Susan S. daughter of William and Jemima Silver.\* He died at Salem of consumption, Nov.

\*The marriage of Nathaniel P. Averill and Sarah Sheldon on June 6, 1819 is recorded at Danvers.





7, 1861. She died at Salem, May 10, 1867 aged 67 years and 4 months.

Child, born in Salem :

53 NATHANIEL S., b. July 4, 1835.

38 Aaron Perkins Averill, born in Topsfield, May, 1810, married Jan. 24, 1838, in Topsfield, Julia Ann Eastman. He died at Georgetown, Feb. 7, 1865, aged 54 y., 9 m.

Children, born in Topsfield :

EDWIN WALLACE, b. Aug. 5, 1838; d. Nov. 27, 1845.

MARTHA ANN, b. Sept. 19, 1841.

HARRIET WOOD, b. May 20, 1847.

38 Ephraim Averill, born in Topsfield, Feb. 28, 1813; married, first, April 11, 1833, Lydia Simonds Potter of Ipswich. She died Aug. 3, 1850, and he married, second, May 4, 1851, Mary Faulkner, daughter of Ebenezer and Lydia Towne. She became insane and died June 6, 1870, in Ipswich, aged 57. He possessed a fine bass voice and for many years conducted old time "singing schools." He died in Topsfield, Jan. 26, 1898.

Children, all born in Linebrook Parish, Ipswich :

ELIZA MARY, b. June 6, 1834; m. April 25, 1852, Charles Perkins of Topsfield, and d. Mar. 19, 1907.

54 EPHRAIM PERKINS, b. Mar. 9, 1836.

CAROLINE AUGUSTA, b. Jan. 11, 1841; m. 1st, May 10, 1859, Benjamin How of Ipswich; m. 2d, June 5, 1873, Thomas Potter of Ipswich; m. 3d, April 6, 1881, William H. Tozier of Ipswich. Lives in Ipswich.

40 Albert Augustus Averill, born in Topsfield, May 10, 1811, married, Sept. 15, 1839 at Danvers, Hannah M., daughter of Timothy and Clarissa Walton. She died at Stoneham, Mar. 3, 1852. He was named at birth Royal Augustus Averill, without doubt for Royal Augustus Merriam, M. D., the Topsfield physician. He went by the name of "Augustus" during his younger days but on attaining his majority he adopted the name Albert Augustus. Lived in Salem and Stoneham.





## Children :

HANNAH JANE, b. June 7, 1841, in Salem.

ARCHANA MARIA, b. ———; m. Mar. 10, 1861, in Middleton,  
Otis M. Clement of Stoneham.

ELECTRA P., b. July 7, 1848, in Salem; d. Aug. 25, 1848 in Salem.

ABBY L., b. Feb., 1852; d. July 28, 1852.

**41 Moses Abba Averill**, born Dec. 20, 1827 (1828. Danvers Rds.), in Middleton, married July 20, 1851, at Salem, Mary Jane Ellis, daughter of Dougal and Caroline C. (Fuller) Campbell, born at Newport, N. S. She died in Salem, Apr. 19, 1885, aged 57 years, and he died in Salem, Dec. 22, 1895. He was a shoemaker while a young man living in Danvers and afterwards removed to Salem when he became a policeman and court officer.

## Children :

MOSES F., b. Mar. 23, 1852, in Peabody; d. Dec. 11, 1868, in Salem.

ARTHUR A., b. Oct., 1853 in Peabody; d. Feb. 19, 1902 in Salem. Lawyer.

SALENDIA EVELYN, b. Sept. 23, 1864, in Salem; m. Sept. 10, 1884, Robert S. Coblents of Peabody. Lives in Salem.

**42 Cyrus Averill**, born in Topsfield, Oct. 30, 1802; married Dec. 8, 1828, Lavinia, daughter of Darius and Mary (Kezar) Dickenson of Ipswich. She died Dec. 21, 1888, aged 82. Farmer; lived in Topsfield and died March 10, 1891.

## Children, all born in Topsfield :

ELMA LAVINIA, b. Oct. 23, 1830; d. Mar. 7, 1896, in Topsfield; m. Aug. 15, 1857, George H. Davison, of Gloucester.

MARIA JANE, b. Oct. 11, 1832; d. Dec. 30, 1900 in Topsfield; m. April, 1854, at Danvers, James R. Hobbs.

55 CYRUS AUSTIN, b. Aug. 10, 1834.

SARAH AMANDA, b. Oct. 29, 1836; m. Oct. 7, 1853, at Danvers, Nathaniel Foster of Topsfield.

MARY BOYNTON, b. April 20, 1839; m. Feb. 25, 1870, Addison Wonsou of Gloucester.

JOHN FRANCIS, b. June 9, 1852; unm.; lives in Topsfield.

ELLEN FRANCES, b. June 18, 1843, *Family Record* (Cynthia Ellen, Aug. 18, 1843—*Town Record*.); d. March 25, 1861, suicide by poison.





**43 Benjamin Averill**, born in Ipswich, June 20, 1798; married April 25, 1821, in Ipswich, Elizabeth, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Hodgkins) Jewett. Cooper. Removed to Salem in 1835, where he died April 9, 1872. She died Dec. 4, 1882, aged 81 years.

Children, born in Ipswich and Rowley :

ELIZABETH LORD, b. Aug. 14, 1821, in Ipswich; d. Sept. 16, 1822.

ELIZABETH LORD, b. Sept. 18, 1822, in Ipswich; d. unm., Nov. 8, 1903 at Salem.

LUCY ANN, b. Sept. 14, 1824, in Ipswich, d. Sept. 29, 1825.

SARAH JEWETT, b. June 6, 1826, in Ipswich; d. July 27, 1885 in Salem.

JOHN JEWETT, b. July 25, 1828, in Ipswich; d. July 9, 1897; m. June 14, 1855, Octavia W. Oliver of Bath, Me.; carpenter and foreman. Children: Daniel Webster Dodge, b. Sept. 9, 1860, in Salem; d. Sept. 4, 1875, in Salem; Julia M., b. Nov. 29, 1817, in Salem.

LUCY ANN, b. July 1, 1830, in Ipswich; m. April 1, 1860, Edward H. Randall. Lives in Salem.

HARRIET J., b. Jan. 2, 1832, in Ipswich; d. Nov. 4, 1907, unm., at Salem.

**56 JAMES WILLIAM**, b. Feb. 22, 1834, in Ipswich.

BENJAMIN, b. Dec. 26, 1835, in Rowley; carpenter and distiller; d. Mar. 2, 1879; m. Lucy J. Redmond. Had: Martha C., b. Sept. 15, 1861.

JOSEPH JEWETT, b. Dec. 13, 1836, in Rowley; d. May 18, 1836.

ELLEN HODGES, b. Jan. 2, 1839, in Rowley; m. at Fall River, June 19, 1902, Capt. Wm. Prescott Powers of Deer Isle, Me.

JOSEPH JEWETT (twin), b. June 10, 1841, in Rowley; painter; m. July 29, 1869, Cassandra D., dau. Thos. and Susan T. Maxfield. He d. at Salem, Feb. 6, 1903.

SAMUEL ANDREWS (twin), b. June 10, 1841, in Rowley; d. Aug. 2, 1842 in Salem.

GEORGE JEWETT, b. June 15, 1845, in Rowley; carriage painter; d. May 28, 1898; m. Jan. 20, 1876, Georgianna P., dau. George M. and Elizabeth (Gray) Saunders of Salem. Had: Harry Webster, b. Nov. 6, 1881.

**44 James Kimball Averill**, born in Ipswich, Mar. 19, 1804, married Nov. 10, 1835, Eliza Howard, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Howard) Brown of Salem. He was a cabinet-maker and learned his trade with Nathaniel





Appleton of Salem. He died Sept. 2, 1855 in Ipswich. She died in Salem, Aug. 1, 1867, aged 65 years.

Children :

HARRIET ELIZA, b. 1839; d. unm. Feb. 27, 1882 at Salem.

GEORGE H., b. 1840; m. Oct. 29, 1872, at Hamilton, Edna Augusta, dau. of Dudley and Ednah (Dane) Porter; d. Nov. 17, 1907; clerk. She d. June 16, 1911 in Salem, aged 72 years.

CAROLINE HOWARD, m. ——— Wheeler.

**45 Warren Averill**, born July 6, 1809, in Ipswich; married May 15, 1832, Elizabeth Jane Knox of Gardner, Me., then resident in Ipswich. She died Jan. 28, 1880. He was a cooper by trade, at one time being engaged in the fishing business. He died Nov. 26, 1884.

Children, all born in Ipswich :

MARGARET E., b. —; d. Feb. 11, 1851.

ABBY JANE GARDNER, b. June 16, 1846; d. Sept. 29, 1851.

A SON, b. July 23, 1853; d. July 26, 1853.

LUENIA, b. Aug. 4, 1855; m. July 20, 1892, Charles L. Perkins of Newburyport.

**46 William Tarbell Averill**, born April 13, 1811, in Ipswich; married 1st, Eliza Winter of Gloucester. She died Aug. 17, 1839 and he married 2nd, July 15, 1841, Harriet J., daughter of John and Elizabeth (Hodgkins) Jewett of Ipswich. She died Apr. 28, 1890. He was a carpenter by trade and lived in Gloucester and Ipswich. Was tax collector for many years and inspector of customs in 1848. He died July 1, 1881.

Child by 1st wife :

WILLIAM, b. Feb., 1839; d. Nov. 19, 1839.

Children by 2d wife :

LYDIA MANNING, b. Sept. 23, 1842; d. Jan. 27, 1870; m. Nov. 29, 1866, Charles W. Bamford of Ipswich.

57 WILLIAM WARREN, b. Nov. 17, 1845.

A SON, b. Nov. 23, 1848; d. Nov. 26, 1848.

**47 Benjamin Averill**, born June 30, 1812, in Middleton; married, Jan. 1, 1846, Lois, daughter of Jacob





and Lois (Lufkin) Proctor of Derry, N. H. She was born April 2, 1822 and died in Middleton, Nov., 1898. He lived in Middleton and died there Aug. 13, 1881.

Children :

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, b. April 15, 1856; m. June 9, 1892, Louise Booker of Howardsville, Va., where they now live. No children.

JOHN QUINCY, b. 1859; unm.; lives in Middleton.

ALVIN PROCTER, b. Nov. 25, 1860; d. Oct. 25, 1862.

**48 Andrew Peabody Averill**, born June 5, 1815, in Middleton; married, May 28, 1840, Elizabeth Stearns, daughter of Peabody and Dolly (Kenny) Russell of Boxford. She was born Dec. 4, 1817 and died Oct. 24, 1890. He died Dec. 17, 1889. Lived in Middleton.

Children :

ALBERT AVANDER, b. Jan. 15, 1842; m. May, 1866, Sarah, dau. of Isaac and Sarah (Peasley) Craig of Newbury, N. H.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, b. Nov. 14, 1849; d. May 29, 1864.

ANDREW PRESTON, b. July 18, 1856; m. Dec. 25, 1882, Cora S. McKay, b. Apr. 25, 1860, in Bowdoin, Me.; Harvard Univ. Supt. Schools, Martha's Vineyard; 6 children.

CHARLES SIDNEY, b. Feb. 9, 1859; d. unm. Aug. 16, 1885; school-teacher.

**49 Joseph Averill**, born March 31, 1818, in Middleton; married, 1st, Oct. 22, 1884, Martha A., daughter of Joseph Berry and Patty (Elliott) Perkins of Middleton. She was born April 13, 1825 and died, April 24, 1884, in Danvers. He married, 2nd, Oct. 14, 1886, Mrs. Mary J. (Perkins) Greene, a sister of his first wife. He died Jan. 8, 1893, in Danvers.

Children, all by 1st wife :

LEVERETT PERKINS, b. Sept. 14, 1847; d. Aug. 28, 1848.

LEVERETT PERKINS, b. Sept. 4, 1849; m. Jan. 17, 1877, Harriet Putnam, dau. of George P. and Charlotte (Towne) Wilkins of Middleton. She was b. April 11, 1850. No children. He d. Oct. 2, 1894, in Danvers.

HELEN WARD, b. Oct. 8, 1855; unm.; grad. Holyoke Seminary; lives in St. Paul, Minn.



ANNIE M., b. Oct. 11, 1858; m. 1st. — Fiske; m. 2nd, Caleb C. Gardner of Salem.

GEORGE.

**50 Edward Putnam Averill**, born Nov. 23, 1821, in Middleton; married, 1st, Dec. 26, 1849, Lavinia K. daughter of William and Hannah (Moore) Perkins of Andover. She was born Sept. 20, 1829 and died in 1853. He married, 2nd, April 19, 1857, Mary Ham, daughter of William and Martha (Ham) Webber of Sanford, Me. She was born Jan. 27, 1829 and died Mar. 2, 1887, in Lynn. He married, 3rd, Apr. 12, 1888, Abbie A., daughter of Lyman and Synthia (Webber) Butler of Sanford, Me. She was born July 23, 1849. Lives in Lynn.

Children by 2nd wife:

CLARENCE B., b. April 22, 1858; unm.

CERESCO PUTNAM, b. Sept. 13, 1860; d. Sept. 8, 1861, in Middleton.

CERESCO PUTNAM, b. Jan. 24, 1862; unm.

**51 Thomas Leverett Averill**, born in Topsfield, Nov. 1, 1829; married July, 1851, Ruth R. Carr of Newburyport. Farmer and painter. He died June 14, 1889. Children born in Topsfield:

SUSAN SILVER, b. Dec. 13, 1851; m. Sept. 27, 1875, Frank G. Moore of Dallas, Texas; merchant.

SIDNEY WOOD, b. May 14, 1857; unm.; lived in Topsfield.

**52 Edward Augustus Averill**, born in Topsfield, May 3, 1832, married in Salem, Oct. 16, 1855, Harriet M. W., daughter of Richard Preston, born in Ohio Farmer and engineer. He died of heart disease, Feb. 7 1890, in Salem.

Children:

ELLA J., b. 1856; m. at Lynn, Feb. 10, 1876, George H., son of Edward P., and Adeline D. (Warren) Smith.

MARY F., b. July 3, 1864, in Salem.

GERTRUDE M., b. Oct. 28, 1872, in Salem.





**53 Nathaniel S. Averill**, born July 4, 1835; married Jan. 1, 1867, Mary J., daughter of Alexander and Jane Bowie of Bowdoin, Me.; died Nov. 11, 1906; currier. Child, born in Salem.

**NATHANIEL HERBERT**, b. April 16, 1878; m. June 10, 1908, Katherine, dau. Arthur D. and Nannie E. (Foster) Morrison. Plumber.

**54 Ephriam Perkins Averill**, born in Linebrook Parish, Ipswich, Mar. 9, 1836; married Dec. 8, 1864, Susan, daughter of William G. and Mehetable (Balch) Lake. Soldier in Civil War; three years in Co. D. 12th Mass. Vols.; corporal. Shoe operative. Lived in Topsfield where he died Nov. 29, 1909.

Children, born in Topsfield:

**ELMER PERKINS**, b. April 20, 1866; m. Nov. 29, 1889, at Georgetown, Annie P. dau. of Whipple and Charlotte A. (Smith) Ingalls. Children: Eleanor, b. Jan. 2, 1890; d. March 20, 1890; Charles Francis, b. June 3, 1891; Florence Osgood, b. Jan. 13, 1893. Shoe operative; lives in Topsfield.

**CARRIE HAMMOND**, b. Dec. 2, 1871; m. Dec. 20, 1894 at Pawtucket, R. I., Arthur G. Lunt of Newburyport. Child: Arthur Osgood, b. July 25, 1895.

**LULU JESSIE**, b. April 3, 1876.

**55 Cyrus Austin Averell**, born in Topsfield, Aug. 10, 1834; married April 6, 1864, Margaret Y., daughter of Charles and Anna Sweeney of Topsfield. Farmer; lived in Topsfield and died there March 26, 1900.

Children, all born in Topsfield:

**HERMAN AUSTIN**, b. March 7, 1865; d. March 8, 1865.

**ALBION FRANCIS**, b. May 4, 1866; carpenter; d. Sept. 22, 1896.

**CHARLES JUSTIN**, b. June 12, 1871.

**FREDERICK AUSTIN**, b. April 10, 1879.

**MARION ELIZABETH**, b. Dec. 17, 1880; m. Oct. 18, 1905, John R. Gould of Topsfield.

**56 James William Averill**, born Feb. 22, 1834, in Ipswich; married Dec. 31, 1865, in Salem, Martha J. daughter of Amos T. and Abigail L. Leavitt of Hampton, N. H.; died Nov. 10, 1906. House-painter; lived in Salem.





## Child :

ARTHUR LANE, b. Jan. 26, 1867, in Salem; Boston Univ. 1895; lawyer; lives in Salem.

**57 William Warren Averill**, born Nov. 17, 1845, at Ipswich, machinist, married, 1st, Oct. 3, 1866, at Salem, Annie L. daughter of Samuel P. and Sarah L. (Norfolk) Floyd. She died at Salem, of consumption, May 12, 1873, aged 30 years and he married, 2d, Nov. 24, 1886, at Peabody, Mrs. Martha A. (Bruce) Pickering, daughter of Daniel and Mary I. S. Bruce of Marblehead. Lives in Salem; milk contractor.

## Children, born in Salem :

ERNEST HOLTEN, b. Apr. 7, 1867; m. June 17, 1908, Mrs. Ada L. (Harrington) Brown, dau. Simon G. and Caroline A. Harrington.

LYDIA M. B., b. May 18, 1870; d. May 18, 1879 in Salem.

EDNAH FLOYD (twin), b. July 30, 1872; d. May 26, 1879.

EDITH JEWETT (twin), b. July 30, 1872; m. Nov. 20, 1895, in Salem, Horace B. Brooks of Salem.

Know ye the spot where standing is the sign  
The Firemen's flag still flies in front of mine  
Know ye the place where leather, with its smell  
Are household words, in every room you dwell  
Then do ye know the House that stands so tall  
From Topsfield winds its banner to the wall

As some old home, to which we go with pride  
No praise was added, and no name denied  
Is cast aside when age comes on its way  
Kick'd by the traveller, and passed by day

\*The following House for the year 1881 was the only one which was regular order of the year.



## NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

(Continued from Volume XVI (1911) page 144.)

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.\*

The Board of County Commissioners has been filled by the appointment of Hon. ASA W. WILDES, of Newburyport, and B. F. NEWHALL, Esq., of Saugus, as County Commissioners, and Dr. R. A. MERRIAM, of Topsfield, as Special Commissioner.

*Salem Gazette, June 14, 1844.*

The following article was mislaid at the time of its reception.

### FOR THE GAZETTE.

MR. EDITOR. The subject of the following lines was for more than a century the Meeting House of a religious society in Topsfield. The spirit of improvement, or whatever it may be, which is causing our old churches to disappear so rapidly, from among us, has converted this ancient edifice, into the workshop of a tanner and currier, and it is now, as you are probably aware, occupying the situation of a still more venerable looking building, which a year or two since was standing on Boston street.

Know ye the spot where tapering to the sky  
The Firemen's flag staff lifts its head on high;  
Know ye the place where leather, hides and tan,  
Are household words, to every Working-man;  
Then do ye know the House that wandered down  
From Topsfield woods to Salem's ancient town.

As some old horse, to whom in youthful pride  
No praise was stinted, and no care denied,  
Is cast aside when age comes creeping on,  
Kick'd by the traveller, and caressed by none,

\*The following items for the year 1844 were inadvertently omitted from their regular order.—*Editor.*





So now, deserted by its antient friends,  
Topsfield's old Church to Death's dark vale descends,  
Unwept, unhonour'd now, the building stands,  
Its spacious Portals torn by ruthless hands ;  
No more the humble Christian kneels in prayer  
Before his God, and finds acceptance there ;  
No more the sleeping sinner, starts to hear  
The truth he slighted, thundering in his ear ;  
Hush'd is the voice of Prayer, the song of Praise,  
Which formed the light, and life, of other days.

In Scripture times the Tabernacle stood,  
Not cover'd o'er with boards and beams of wood,  
But badger skins, and sheep skins colored red,  
Formed for the Jews a statlier roof instead ;  
With skins of Beasts, like those in antient days,  
Our modern tanners still their structures raise ;  
But wisely differing from the antient Jews,  
They tan the skins and make them into shoes,  
From which, by some strange Alchemy, they pass  
To good pine boards, cut nails, and window glass.

Oh what strange transformations do we find,  
In men and things for nobler deeds designed ;  
Within these walls are drawn, not notes of praise,  
But notes of hand, that run for certain days,  
When down to Boston street the Bosses flock  
For honest tradesman, and the best of stock,  
Where text and sermon, taught the gospel plan ;  
The talk is now, of Hemlock Bark, and Tan.  
And if "Old Hundred" seen to strike the ear,  
You've miss'd the phrase, they're counting cow hides here.  
The sacred Oil, which down from Aaron's race,  
Has marked the Priesthood, and the Holy place,  
Yields in these Courts its glorious meed forever,  
To that vile stuff, that's made from Codfish liver ;  
And old tin cannisters, and casks of wood ;  
Are seen where once the Silver Goblets stood.  
What tho' no Golden Calf is worshiped here,  
To fill the soul with darkness and with fear ;  
Still, if the truth with plainness must be told,  
They'd eat a Calf, and tan his skin, for gold.

Alas, how great the difference must appear,  
A church in Topsfield, and a Tanyard here ;





Yet this great change its present business suits  
Not saving souls of men, but tanning soles of boots.

F.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 6, 1844.*

**EXTENTION OF HALE & CO'S.  
INDEPENDENT LETTER MAIL.**

*Office No. 14 Washington street, Lawrence Place, Salem.*

Postage 6 1-4 cts., or 20 franks for \$1. Postage to Detroit,  
Cleveland, Chicago and St. John and St. Andrews, N. B.,  
12 1-2 cts.

OFFICES are established at Boston, [and many other cities.  
Joel Lake was the agent was Topsfield.]

*Mails close at Salem Office,*

Southern and Western at 10 A. M., and 2 P. M.  
Northern and Eastern at 8 1-2 and 10 A. M., and 2 and 5 3-4  
P. M.

Boston 8 1-2 and 10 A. M., 2 and 5 3-4 P. M.

Postage to and from Boston 5 cents, including the penny post.

SYLVESTER PHELPS, Agent.


*Salem Gazette, Aug. 13, 1844.*

[In the advertisement of the Essex Mechanics Mutual Fire  
Insurance Company of Salem, the name of Charles Herriek of  
Topsfield appears among the Directors.]

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 23, 1844.*

**A GREAT MOVE.** Arrangements have been made to remove  
the Topsfield Hotel to the sea shore, in Lynn, near the country  
seat of Mr. Robert Brookhouse, of this city. Mr. Tapley, the  
great clod-compellor, we understand has contracted to deliver  
said Hotel, "in good order and well conditioned," as the bills of  
lading say, at a certain specified date. The distance, we believe,  
is twelve or fourteen miles. The Hotel, which is quite spacious,  
will be removed in detached portions, and put together on its  
projected site.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 3, 1844.*

 The old farmers in Massachusetts are quite astonished  
at the abundance, beauty and excellence of fruit the present





season. We visited not long since a young and thrifty orchard on Washington Street, in Boxford, in that State, owned by the venerable Doctor George W. Sawyer, and such a display of fruit it was never our fortune to witness before. The trees were all young and each limb and twig had as much as it could do to support the weight upon it. The fruit was all of the choicest kinds and the variety quite extensive. This orchard seemed to be a pet of the Doctor's old age. It is situated near his dwelling upon a gravel knoll and the soil is kept loose about the roots of the trees. It struck us as something remarkable that all the fruit not only appeared large but exceedingly fair and plump and beautiful. The Doctor supposes this to result from keeping the soil loose.

We also examined the large barn on the Doctor's farm, and which is said to be, (and we have no doubt of the fact) the best barn in the county of Essex. It is built on the side of a hill excavated for the purpose, with a stone basement of excellent workmanship.— The entrance to the basement is on one side from the barn yard which is enclosed with a beautiful stone wall. There is an entrance to the main floor at one end, and an entrance with cattle and carts in the second story from the other end by means of a part of the remaining hill. The barn is 50 or 80 feet and neither timber, board or plank throughout is spliced. Every piece was cut for the purpose even to the plank, eighty feet long. The barn in all its parts and appointments is in the highest style of neatness, convenience and elegance.

The Doctor is equally famous for his excellent humor and generous hospitality as for his professional skill and his agricultural success. Long may he live to enjoy the good things about him.—*Bangor Whig.*

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 24, 1844.*

### TOPSFIELD AWAKE.

The Hon. DANIEL P. KING will deliver a Political Lecture, at the Academy Hall in Topsfield, THIS EVENING, at 7 o'clock. All the voters of each party are respectfully invited.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 8, 1844.*

[R. A. Merriam, M. D. of Topsfield was 1st Vice President of the Essex County Whig Convention held at Ipswich, Oct. 15th.]

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 18, 1844.*





FOR THE GAZETTE.

## TOPSFIELD, UP AND DOING.

TOPSFIELD, Nov. 1.—*Mr. Editor.*—The Whigs of Topsfield had a truly glorious meeting on Saturday evening last. The spacious Hall of the Academy was crowded. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed and every thing went bravely on. Ebenezer Hussey of Lynn, delivered a two hours' speech of thrilling eloquence and great power. It was a complete vindication of his position of the inalienable rights of man—and of the identity of the Whig party with the great principles of human freedom. Mr. Hussey is an eloquent speaker, and will do this state much service. The Topsfield Boys will come up to the Polls on the 11th inst. and if I am not much mistaken, you will see that they know how to appreciate the services of the great Statesmen of the West.

Many ladies were present at our meeting on Saturday evening, to cheer us with their sunny smiles, and invoke the blessing of Heaven on our noble cause.

P.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 5, 1844.*

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

The Petition of the Congregational Parish in Topsfield, in the county of Essex, respectfully shews: That in and by the last will and testament of Daniel Bixby, late of said Topsfield, made and published on the first day of November, A. D. 1811, and duly allowed and approved in February, A. D. 1825, the farm of the testator, situated partly in said Topsfield and partly in Boxford, in said county, after the termination of certain life estates, therein, is given and devised to the Selectmen of said Topsfield and their successors in office forever, in trust, for the support of a gospel minister or ministers, in said Topsfield, of the Congregational denomination; that said life estates have terminated, and that your petitioners are now legally entitled, by the terms and trusts of said will, to the rents, incomes and profits of said estate; and that said estate could be more conveniently administered and the trust in said will could be more beneficially discharged by a board of Trustees to be appointed from time to time by your petitioners, than by boards of Selectmen of the town, changing from year to year. Whereupon your petitioners pray that after due notice shall be given to all parties in interest, for the passage of an act authorizing the said estate to be held and administered and the said trusts to be





discharged by a board of Trustees to be appointed as aforesaid, or in such other mode as shall be deemed just and reasonable, in lieu of the Selectmen of said Topsfield as provided for in said will. And as in duty bound will ever pray, by

WM. N. CLEAVELAND, } Committee  
JOHN WRIGHT, } of  
SAMUEL TODD, } said Parish.  
*Salem Gazette, Jan. 29, 1847.*

### TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Spring Term of this Institution, will commence on THURSDAY, the 25th inst. and continue Twelve Weeks. Application made to

J. H. NOYES, Principal.

Topsfield, Feb. 12, 1847.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 12, 1847.*

### LOST

Between Topsfield and Salem, a bag containing 13 pair of Youth's Shoes. The finder shall be suitable rewarded, at the Salem Gazette Office.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 13, 1847.*

Topsfield Academy!

FOR BOTH SEXES

The Summer Term will commence on Thursday, the 20th of May next, and continue eleven weeks. Tuition—\$4 00; Languages—\$1 00 extra. Board, within a few steps of the Academy, from \$1 50 to \$2 00.

Application for admission may be made to

J. H. NOYES, Principal  
*Salem Gazette, Apr. 27, 1847.*

We understand there was "considerable of a hail storm" in Topsfield on Monday afternoon.

*Salem Gazette, June 18, 1847.*

### SUMMARY

We copied a paragraph, a few weeks since, concerning a machine for making pegs by steam, in Cincinnati. It was said that eighteen bushels a day are turned out by it. One of these





machines is in operation in Topsfield, worked by a small steam engine, and making as large a quantity of pegs as that referred to in Cincinnati. The machine is the invention of Mr. Richards, one of the most ingenious mechanics of this town. It was to have been expected that a town where so many shoes are made should produce an invention like this.

—*Lynn News.*

*Salem Gazette, June 26, 1847.*

## DEATHS

In Topsfield, Mr. Benjamin Pike, aged 93 years and 4 mos.—a revolutionary pensioner.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 11, 1847.*

Browne's Pectoral Syrup of Cohosh

for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Brochitis, etc.

Testimonial of Benj. C. Orne, Esq. Post Master at Topsfield.

Topsfield, Mar. 6, 1848.

Dear Sir,—I have been afflicted for two years or more with the Asthma, and have tried several kinds of medicine, and found no relief, until I procured a bottle of your Pectoral Syrup of Cohosh. I have taken only one bottle, and have found great relief from using it. I would, therefore, recommend this medicine to those who are afflicted with the Asthma, as being the best medicine I have ever used for that complaint.

Very respectfully yours

BENJ. C. ORNE.

The above Syrup is sold, wholesale and retail, by F. J. BROWNE, 226 Essex st.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 25, 1848.*

PREMIUM TREES.—For Sale at Lake's Nurseries.

TOPSFIELD, MASS.,

A very superior lot of Fruit Trees, consisting of the following kinds viz:

APPLE, PEACH, PLUM, CHERRY, QUINCE

APRICOT, &c., &c.

Also—200 extra size Pear Trees, with bearing heads;

700 “ “ Baldwin Apple Trees,

3 or 4 years upon the bud, very straight and handsome, height, average 9 feet.





The above Trees are of the choicest and most approved kinds of Fruit, and have received the 1st and 2d premiums of the Essex Agricultural Society the last two years, and will be sold at wholesale and retail at moderate prices.

—Also—

500 European Mountain Ash;  
50,000 Seedling Apple Stocks;  
5,000 Pear; Hedge Plants;  
30 kinds Double Dahlias.

W. G. LAKE

Topsfield, April 14, 1848.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 18, 1848.*

Genealogical. The interesting memoranda published in the Gazette on Friday reminded a subscriber that the late Capt. Thomas Baker, of Gloucester, whose death at the age of 86, was announced in the same paper was allied to one branch of the Appleton family, thus—(vide Farmer and other sources:)—John Appleton died at Great Waldingfield, in Suffolk, England in 1436. His son Samuel, born at Little Waldingfield in 1586 came to New England in 1635, and settled at Ipswich. Freeman 1636; Rep. 1637; died 1670, leaving among other children, a son Samuel born at Little Waldingfield 1625; Rep. of Ipswich 1669-75-77 and 80; military officer and commander in chief in Philip's war of 1676; assistant 6 years, and one of the council under charter of Wm. & Mary, 1692. He died May, 1696. He married 2d, Mary, daughter of John Oliver, Dec. 2, 1656, and had among other children a son Isaac, born 1704, and died at Ipswich 1794, having had sons:—1 Isaac, of New Ipswich, born 1731, died 1806, the father of Samuel, Nathan and Ebenezer Appleton, distinguished citizens of Boston. 2. Francis, of New Ipswich, the father of Rev. Jesse Appleton, D. D.; former President of Bowdoin College. 3. Samuel. 4. Thomas, who married Lydia, a sister of Hon. Nathan Dane, and settled in Beverly, where his son Daniel now resides. His wife Lydia, aforesaid, died 1845 at the advanced age of 103. 5. John. 6. Daniel. 7. William. 8. Joseph, a clergyman. Several of these sons settled in Maine. The Priscilla Baker named above was daughter of Capt. Thos. B. of Topsfield, who was born Sept. 13, 1636, married Priscilla, daughter of Dep. Gov. Symonds, Nov. 26, 1672, and died Mar. 18, 1718. Freeman, 1669; Rep. 1686-89-90. His children were Priscilla, born Dec. 8, 1674, married S. Appleton; Martha, born Oct. 14, 1682, married ——— Sergeant; Rebecca, born Nov. 16, 1685; Thomas, born Feb. 17, 1688; John, born Jan. 6, 1691; Elizabeth, born ———. It is





said that upon a visit of some of his legislative acquaintances from Boston, at his home in Topsfield, his children came running into the room with all the freedom and liberty of young democracy, and the honest heartedness of country life, when the dignity of Capt. Baker being offended at this exhibition before his city guests, he asked his wife why she did not send these children to their homes. Simultaneously the children relieved their mother from the trouble of a reply, and taught their father a lesson for the future, by exclaiming in a breath, "Why father! we are at home now!" Capt. Baker was the son of John Baker of Ipswich, who gave his son Thomas a deed in 1661, "of all his lands, housing, &c., in Topsfield, 150 acres more or less." His wife was Elizabeth. Capt. B. willed his son Thomas "my silver tankard and silver spoon yt was my father's, and also a good bed for the use of strangers." The widow of Gov. Symonds was Rebecca, formerly the wife of Deacon Robert Hale, of Charlestown, and mother of Rev. John Hale, the first minister of Beverly. She died 1695, names in her will her kinsman Bennett L. Straine in England, and gives among other legacies, "my grogeram manto and culled silk petticoat" to "my daughter Baker." Thomas, the son of Capt. T. married Mary, and died 1728, leaving a son John, to whom he gave all his lands at Argylla farm, in Ipswich, and a son Thomas all his lands in Topsfield, adjoining what was then and formerly known as Baker's, but now as Praitchard's Pond. This latter Thomas born 1711, married Sarah Wade, of Ipswich, 1729, and died 1777. He had a large family. Of his children, Thomas and Jonathan settled in the vicinity of Keene, N. H.; John, "Major Baker," resided in Topsfield, military officer in the French war of 1755, and in the Revolution: died 1815; Symonds settled in Andover, where his grandson David Baker, now resides: he was a physician; William, the father of Capt. Thomas Baker, recently deceased, settled in Gloucester; Joseph, married Hepsibah Thorndike of Beverly, where he settled: died 1801: Innholder, Collector, Constable, Justice of the Peace, &c.; Sarah, married John Balch, jr., a currier, and died Jan. 16, 1831; Rebecca, married Sylvanus Wilds; Martha, married Joseph Towne; Mary, married Dudley Smith. Sarah Wade, wife of Thomas Baker, aforesaid, was born May 20, 1711, daughter of Capt. Thomas Wade, who married Elizabeth Thornton of Boston, Apr. 4, 1700. His father was Col. Thomas Wade, who married Elizabeth Coggsell, of Ipswich, Feb. 22, 1670 and died Oct. 4, 1696. He was son of Jonathan Wade, one of the earliest and of the most prominent settlers of Ipswich.

*Salem Gazette, May 2, 1848.*





## UNITED STATES MAIL LINE.

Stage leaves Eagle House, Haverhill, every morning at 6 o'clock, passing through Georgetown, Boxford, Topsfield, and Danvers; arrives at Depot in Salem in time for 10 o'clock Train of Cars for Boston.

Returning leaves Depot at Salem every day, on the arrival of the 2 1-2 o'clock Train from Boston, and leaves Mansion House, Salem, 3 1-2 o'clock, passing through the above-named places for Haverhill.

Office in Boston, City Hotel; in Salem, Mansion House.

BENJ. HILLIARD, Proprietor and Driver.

*Salem Gazette, June 13, 1848.*

## TOPSFIELD AWAKE.

One of the largest and most spirited meetings ever held in Topsfield, took place at the Whig Head Quarters, on Thursday evening last. John G. Hood, Esq., was elected chairman, and B. P. Adams, secretary. A committee of correspondence was chosen, consisting of B. P. Adams, Chas. Herrick, Wm. D. Atkins, R. Phillips, Jr., R. A. Merriam, J. K. Cole, and J. W. Batchelder. Messrs. J. K. Cole, and Thomas L. Lane were chosen delegates to the Worcester Convention.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 9, 1848.*

## TOPSFIELD AWAKING.

We understand that the Whigs of Topsfield had a grand meeting at the Academy Hall, on Tuesday evening. Dr. R. A. Merriam presided, and Mr. Upham, the President of the Salem Taylor Club, delivered an admirable address, which was listened to with the greatest interest and attention.—Reg.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 29, 1848.*

## OLD TOPSFIELD AWAKE

The notice for the Taylor Whig Rally for last Tuesday evening, was duly responded to by a crowded house, to hear an address from the Rev. C. W. Upham of Salem. The Academy Hall was crowded to overflowing, all the space being filled with Taylor men principally, with a few of other sentiments, from Topsfield and the neighboring towns. The Salem Taylor Glee Club, favored us with their presence and Glees.

Mr. Upham by his eloquence, richness of diction, fairness of treatment to all parties, commended the most profound attention





for two hours, interspersed with two or three songs from the Club, which contributed not a little to the entertainment. I have seen no one, friend or foe, who was not deeply impressed with the commanding eloquence of Mr. Upham, and the performances of the Club were highly gratifying.

TOPSFIELD.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 30, 1848.*

## TOPSFIELD NURSERIES

### Premium Trees!

The subscriber respectfully invites his friends and customers to his large collection of

### FRUIT TREES!

embracing nearly all the CHOICEST and MOST APPROVED KINDS to be obtained—consisting in part of the following kinds, viz.:

10,000 BALDWIN APPLE TREES, 2 years old from the bud, being extra growth;

5,000 different kinds APPLE TREES, 2 years old from the bud, and most approved;

1,000 PEAR TREES, 2 years old from the bud, 15 different varieties;

50,000 SEEDLING APPLE STOCKS, 2 years old, very prime;

15,000 SEEDLING APPLE STOCKS, 1 year old;

25,000 SEEDLING PEAR STOCKS, 1 year old, very prime;

400 EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN ASH, extra Size.

Also—a good variety of CHERRY, PEACH and PLUM TREES.

The above Trees received the first premium of the Essex County Agricultural Society the last year, and will be sold on reasonable terms.

Topsfield, Oct. 6.

W. G. LAKE

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 13, 1848.*

## TOPSFIELD

A meeting of the friends of TAYLOR & FILLMORE will be held at the Academy Hall, in Topsfield, THIS EVENING, Nov. 3, at 7 o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by Hon. A. HUNTINGTON and O. P. LORD, Esq.

Topsfield, Nov. 3, 1848.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 3, 1848.*





Whig Meeting in Topsfield.—A large and spirited meeting of the friends of Taylor and Fillmore, was held last evening, in the Academy Hall. This large and commodious hall was at an early hour crowded to overflowing, to hear addresses from Mr. North-end of Danvers, and Mr. Huntington of Salem. They addressed the meeting with great force and eloquence for more than three hours. Their speeches were rich in fact, argument, and amusing illustrations. The meeting broke up with three cheers for Taylor and Fillmore and our speakers.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 4, 1848.*

NOTICE. This is to certify that I have sold to my son, ERASTUS H. CLARKE, his time; and I hereby forbid all persons trusting him on my account, as I shall pay no debts of his contracting.

SAMUEL CLARKE.

Topsfield, Jan. 12th, 1849.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 12, 1849.*

An attempt was made to rob the store of Mr. Paul Pearson, of Pearson's Mills Village, Newbury, early last Monday morning. The Newburyport Herald says three persons were discovered in the act of putting goods from the store into a sleigh. Messrs. Elbridge Tenney and Wm. Pearson, having been informed of the fact, proceeded to the spot, and after a sharp conflict, succeeded in obtaining possession of the horse and sleigh, the robbers having fled.

In the conflict, Mr. Tenney received a severe wound in the hand with a knife. Three young men named Shaw, Mallory, and Purrington have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the robbery.

These individuals had their examination on Tuesday morning, before Justice Marston. After the examination had proceeded at some length, Purrington, one of the prisoners, turned evidence for the state, and testified that he hired a horse and sleigh at Mr. G. Boardman's and together with Shaw and Mallory went to Ipswich, where they broke into the depot, and from thence they went to Topsfield, where they broke into a store, but took nothing. Then they went to the place of the robbery.

The prisoners were also indicted for breaking into the store in Topsfield, but the facts did not weigh in the minds of the Court.

The Court required the prisoners, Shaw and Mallory, to give bonds in the sum of \$600 each for their appearance in the Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at Salem in March next for further trial. In default of bail they were committed.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 19, 1849.*





Among the appointments made by the President and Senate was that of Asa W. Wildes (born in Topsfield) to be Surveyor of the Port of Ipswich.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 2, 1849.*

At a meeting held Feb. 5th, Charles Herrick of Topsfield was chosen one of the Directors of the Essex Mechanics Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Salem.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1849.*

**A FARM FOR SALE.** IN TOPSFIELD, seven miles from Salem, three from Danvers Plains, and one from a stopping place on the Essex Railroad, on a road from Danvers to Boxford,—containing about one hundred and forty acres, all compact around the buildings; a good convenient house and cellars for two families, with seven other buildings: The whole pleasantly situated with handsome lots of wood near the house, sufficient in growth to support the fires, young grafted fruit bearing trees, and the best of fielding. The farm is fenced almost wholly with stone wall, and is excellently watered with springs and two brooks running through it.

Inquire of

IRA PORTER on the premises.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 9, 1849.*

At a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held at Ipswich this week the petition of Benj. B. Towne and als., for a road in Wenham, crossing Wenham Swamp towards Topsfield, was dismissed. It has been decided to lay down the whole of the Newburyport Turnpike lying in this county, as a highway,—it being understood that the Middlesex Commissioners will pursue a like course with the residue of said turnpike.

*Salem Gazette, May 12, 1849.*

The wheelwright shop of Thomas K. Leach, and the dwelling house of Aaron Kneeland, in Topsfield, were struck by lightning on Thursday morning. The shop was very much shattered; the house was less injured. We are informed that lightning was never known to strike in the village or Topsfield before this instance.

*Salem Gazette, June 2, 1849.*

## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, on the 20th inst., at the house of Mr. B. P. Adams, Miss Sally Leach, of this city, aged 77.

*Salem Gazette, June 21, 1849.*





*Commonwealth on complaint of Luke Towne vs. Samuel Todd.*  
This complaint charged against the respondent with an assault and battery committed on the complainant.

It appeared that on the 21st of December last, a meeting of the inhabitants of Topsfield was holden for the adoption of measures to prevent injury from *rabid dogs*. A motion was made for an indefinite postponement of the subject. While this motion was under consideration, the complainant made some observation that induced the respondent (the moderator of the meeting) to say to him that he was out of order, and must sit down. Either I won't or I shan't were his words. He was again told by the moderator, that he must either sit down and keep order, or leave the house. He said I shan't do either. He was then told by the moderator that he should direct the constables to take him from the house, and detain him until the meeting was over. He replied you can do it. Accordingly the constables were so directed. When the constables were about to take hold of him, Mr. T. extended his arm towards them, says, hands off, gentlemen, I appeal to the town. The moderator says, there is no appeal—or it is too late now to claim an appeal—Constables carry him out,—carry him out. Whereupon with a constable at each arm he was conducted from the house—resisting sufficiently to show clearly that it was against his will. The forcible removal from the house was the assault and battery charged. The complaint testified that he was slightly injured in his arm and side by the violence used. No question was made as to the correctness of the decision of the moderator, whether Mr. Towne was or was not in order when he was called to order, and directed to sit down. If Mr. Towne had then claimed an appeal, the Court were of opinion that the question should have been submitted; and if supported by a majority of votes, it would have been the duty of the moderator to have yielded thereto. But inasmuch as no appeal was shown to have been claimed, until peremptory orders for the removal had been given, it was then the duty of the moderator to insist upon obedience or removal.

W. D. NORTHEND, Esq., Attorney for the Government

O. P. LORD, Esq., attorney for the Defendant.

Trial was had before J. W. PROCTOR, Esq.—*Danvers Cour.*

*Salem Gazette, July 14, 1849.*

**FIRE IN TOPSFIELD.** On Monday night last, an outbuilding, belonging to Asa Pingree, Esq., near his house, in Topsfield, was destroyed by fire. Among the contents destroyed were three chaises, three hundred bushels of corn, two and a half tons of





fine feed, &c. The dwelling house was in great danger, but was saved by the efforts of the citizens.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 31, 1849.*

### DEATHS.

The death of Mrs. H. J. Holmes, of Topsfield, mentioned in your paper of last week, ought not to pass without some further notice. Her friends and the circle of her acquaintance, feel a void which will not soon be filled. The natural powers of her mind were not more conspicuous than her acquired knowledge. From an infirmity, under which she had suffered for many years, she was shut out from the freedom of intercourse with society which was enjoyed by others. Her conversational powers connected with her extensive reading and brilliancy of intellect, fitted her in a most remarkable degree for an entertaining companion.

When a little excited by opposition or otherwise, I have been surprised at the displays of her extemporaneous eloquence. It has frequently exceeded any thing we ever witnessed in man or woman. With her command of language, and the many facts stored up in a very retentive memory, she would frequently fasten the attention of the listener for almost hours together, astonished at the powers of her oratory. She had obtained by her own unaided industry the knowledge of several foreign languages. She read French with great fluency; her pen was the principal source of her amusement, and her poetic compositions were, by no means, small, although her modesty would seldom allow them to be published. Her benevolence and generosity were proverbial. From her infancy she had imbibed a predilection for Catholicism, professed and embraced it, and died in the full faith. Her friends deeply feel her loss and all those who had the pleasure of her acquaintance sincerely sympathize with them in their bereavement.

M.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 28, 1849.*

Topsfield Delegates to Whig State Convention.—E. S. Bixby and B. P. Adams. To the Whig County Convention John K. Cole and John G. Hood.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 29, 1849.*

### COURT RECORD—C. C. P. at IPSWICH.

*Monday, Oct. 22.* In the case of the complaint against Topsfield constables, for forcibly ejecting Luke Towne from a town





meeting under the direction of the Moderator, the Judge intimated that he should rule that if defendants justified under the direction of the Moderator, he should hold the justification good; upon which a verdict for defendants was allowed. O. P. Lord for defence.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 26, 1849.*

*Real and Personal Estate*

Will be sold at Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 19th day of November inst., at 9 o'clock, A. M., at the farm of Col. Porter Bradstreet, late of Topsfield, deceased.

**ALL THE PERSONAL ESTATE**

on said Farm—consisting of

STOCK, PRODUCE, &c., viz:

1 valuable Iron Grey Horse;

2 pair superior Working oxen;

6 good Cows;

10 tons good English Hay;

15 do Stock Hay;

Lot of Corn Fodder and Rye Straw;

70 bushels Corn; 30 do Rye;

100 do Potatoes

20 barrels Cider;

10 do Vinegar;

20 Vinegar Casks; large size;

3 Sleighs; 1 Chaise; 2 Horse Wagons;

1 Ox Wagon; Carts, Sleds; with all the other Farming Implement and Tools.

Also—1 Turning Lathe and Chisels, with various other Carpenter's Tools.

Also—about 1500 Apple trees, in the Nursery, budded with the best kinds of fruit, and of large size, suitable for setting.

After the sale of the Personal Estate, will be sold the Saw Mill, yard and privilege, and Mill Gearing thereto belonging.

The conditions will be made known at time of sale.

N. B. Should the above named day be stormy, the sale will be postponed to the next fair day.

MEHITABLE BRADSTREET, Executrix.

Topsfield, Nov. 6, 1849.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 9, 1849.*

BENJAMIN P. ADAMS, Esq., has been appointed Postmaster of Topsfield, in place of B. C. Orne, Esq., resigned.

*Salem Gazette, Jan, 5, 1850.*





**CENTENNIAL.** We understand that the people of Topsfield have it in contemplation to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of that town, during the present year. The date of incorporation was Oct. 18, 1650. The place was formerly called *Sheweenemeady*, or New Meadows, was granted to inhabitants of Salem and Ipswich at the session of Nov. 5, 1639, and was settled about this time. The names of many of the first settlers are yet borne in the town by their descendants, and not a few men of note claim Topsfield as the place of their nativity. A very interesting celebration may be anticipated should our Topsfield friends take hold of the matter with their usual energy and spirit.—Reg.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 12, 1850.*

### COLLECTOR'S SALE.

The following described real estate, occupied by JOHN W. DODGE in Topsfield, will be sold by auction, on TUESDAY, the 12th day of March next, unless the taxes assessed on the same, by the town of Topsfield, are previously paid:—

Said property consists of one half of a Dwelling House, occupied by said Dodge, as above named, with the Land, under and adjoining, and a barn adjacent.

The Sale will be at the store of BENJAMIN P. ADAMS.

THOMAS L. LANE, Collector.

Topsfield, Feb. 19, 1850.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 19, 1850.*

*Two Hundredth Anniversary at Topsfield.*—The citizens of Topsfield, have had a meeting, and an efficient committee of seven persons have been chosen to make necessary arrangements. Nehemiah Cleaveland, Esq., of Brooklyn, N. Y. has been invited to deliver an address.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 23, 1850.*

### COLLECTOR'S SALE.

Will be sold by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, the 30th day of March instant, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at the store of BENJ. P. ADAMS, in Topsfield:

SO MUCH of the REAL ESTATE, near the meeting house, in Topsfield, now in occupation of JOHN W. DODGE, as will pay, together with the costs of sale and all necessary intervening charges, a tax of \$4 65, assessed upon said Dodge.

THOMAS L. LANE.

Collector of Topsfield.

Topsfield, March 9.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 12, 1850.*





BY S. S. JOHNSON

*Auctioneer and Dealer in Fancy Goods . . . 14 Front St.*

*Valuable Farm at Auction.*

Will be sold at Auction, on the premises, on WEDNESDAY, April 10th, at 2 o'clock, P. M.,

The FARM of the late NATHANIEL PORTER, situated in Topsfield, on the road leading from Danvers to Boxford over the Ipswich river, at Rowley Bridge, so called, containing about 54 acres of excellent land, pleasantly situated, and suitably divided into tillage and pasturage, well fenced with stone walls, and well watered. There is a dwelling house and barn upon the premises. Conditions made known at the sale.

DAVID PORTER,  
ALLEN PORTER,  
IRA PORTER.

Reference to IRA PORTER, Topsfield, or

A. HUNTINGTON, Esq., Salem.

Topsfield, Mar. 30, 1850.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 2, 1850.*

*Topsfield Centennial.* Messrs. R. A. Merriam, Wm. Mundy, W. N. Cleaveland, J. W. Batchelder, J. P. Towne, and Jno G. Hood, are the Committee chosen by the town to make arrangements for the two hundredth celebration of the incorporation of Topsfield, which occurs the present year, on Thursday, the 29th day of August next. An address will be delivered by Nehemiah Cleaveland, N. Y., and a poem by Miss Hannah F. Gould, of Newburyport, will be followed by a public dinner, to be enlivened by sentiments and speeches. It is hoped that all the absent sons and daughters of this small but ancient town will attend this social home gathering.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 30, 1850.*

The Lynn News seconds the proposition for an Essex County Farm School, to be established near the centre of the County, in Topsfield, Middleton, or Georgetown, for instance.

*Salem Gazette, May 14, 1850.*

## UNITED STATES MAIL LINE.

Stage leaves Eagle House, Haverhill, every morning, at 6 o'clock, passing through Georgetown, Boxford, Topsfield and Danvers; arrives at Depot in Salem in time for 10 1-2 o'clock Train of Cars for Boston.





Returning, leaves Depot at Salem every day, on the arrival of the 2 1-2 o'clock Train from Boston, and leaves Essex House, Salem, 3 1-4 o'clock, passing through the above named places for Haverhill.

Office in Boston, City Hotel; in Salem, Essex House.

ISAAC PINKHAM, Driver.

*Salem Gazette, May 18, 1850.*

### DEATHS.

In Topsfield, 11th inst, Susan Jane, aged 8 years, daughter of Elizabeth H., and Richard Phillips, Jr. Esq. This is the fourth child out of a family of five children, which these parents have been called to follow to the grave within a few years past.

*Salem Gazette, July 16, 1850.*

### Centennial Celebration.

The Inhabitants of TOPSFIELD intend to celebrate, on THURSDAY, the 29th of August, the *Second Centennial Anniversary* of the Town. As there may be persons in other places who wish to attend on that occasion, all such are informed that Tickets for the Dinner, at one dollar each, may be procured until the 20th inst. at Messrs. W. & S. B. Ives' Bookstore and of N. Goldsmith, jr. in Salem, and at Messrs. A. P. Perley & Co's. store, at North Danvers. An early application is desirable.

By order of the Committee on Arrangements.

Aug. 6.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 6, 1850.*

THE TOPSFIELD CELEBRATION. Our Topsfield friends are carrying forward the preparation for their bi-centennial celebration, with great zeal and spirit. The procession is to be enlivened by a division of "representatives of ancient modes and manners," in which, we presume small-clothes, faithingales, cocked-up hats and pillions, will make a figure. In the church besides other appropriate services, an address will be delivered by Nehemiah Cleaveland, Esq., and an ode will be sung, which has been written for the occasion by Miss H. F. Gould. Tickets for the dinner may be obtained in this city, of N. Goldsmith, Jr., and at the store of W. & S. B. Ives. We think we can promise an interesting day, and a hospitable reception to any of our citizens who may improve this occasion to visit the ancient and pleasant town of Topsfield. We presume that some of our dealers in "horseware" will make a profitable day's work, by arrangements to carry passengers back and forth, at convenient hours.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 23, 1850.*





Topsfield Centennial Celebration,

THURSDAY, AUG. 29th.

MARSHALL'S NOTICE.

The public exercises will be held in the Grove on Centennial Hill, and will begin at a quarter before eleven, A. M. A procession will be formed on the Common, at 10 o'clock, and will proceed from thence to the Grove,—where seats are provided,—to which all ladies are requested to resort and be seated before the arrival of the procession.

At the close of the public exercises the procession will be formed again, and will proceed in the following order to the Pavilion on the Common, where dinner will be served.

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Band

Chief Marshal and Aids.

Committee of Arrangements.

President and Orator of the Day.

Officiating Clergymen.

The Clergy.

Visitors, who are natives of Topsfield, or descended from Topsfield ancestors.

The Officers of the Town.

The Choir.

Representatives of ancient modes and manners.

Citizens present from other towns.

Citizens of Topsfield.

NATH'L CONANT

Chief Marshal.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 28, 1850.

THE TOPSFIELD CELEBRATION. Yesterday was the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the pleasant, and of course ancient, town of TOPSFIELD,—or as it was called by the Indians, before the incorporation of the town in 1650, *Sheweene-meady*, and by the whites, New Meadows. Topsfield was settled by the whites about the year 1642. Among the names of the first settlers, were, Peabody, Perkins, Clark, Cummings, Bradstreet, Gould, Town, Easty, Smith and Wildes; many of whose descendants now cultivate the soil of their progenitors, and have taken an active part in all the preparations of this festival, of which we hope to present a full and detailed account at a future day. We have only time now to say that the weather was





delightful beyond compare. The people of all the neighboring towns flocked in to do honor to the occasion. They were received with warm hospitality.

The services of the occasion were under the shade of trees, on the side of a beautiful hill. The oration, by N. Cleaveland, Esq., was a performance of unsurpassed eloquence and ability. The festivities in the tent were heightened by all the charms which beauty, intelligence, patriotism, and historical sentiment can give to such an occasion. About a 1000 persons of both sexes were assembled at the table, spread by the skill and experience of Mr. Wright. Dr. Huntington, ex-mayor of Lowell, presided, and several speeches were delivered.

In the procession, and on the ground were several very striking memorials of the olden time—particularly three or four couples, in the ancient pilgrim costume, such as marked the higher conditions of life, full wigs, three cornered hats, immense ruffles on breast and wrists, hoods, knee buckles, and the like. The wives rode on pillions behind their husbands, in the procession. There was among other things, a curious display of ancient New England implements of agriculture.

In short Topsfield did the thing in a style never surpassed, and none who participated in the celebration will cease to remember it with pleasure.

The following Ode, was written for the occasion by Miss H. F. Gould and sung in the grove :

The wilderness was deep and drear,  
And mind a savage wild ;—  
Chaotic darkness brooded here,  
O'er man, the forest-child.  
The Spirit, by our fathers, moved  
Upon the face of Night,  
When dawned the Day, that since hath proved  
Two hundred years of light !

Then did a new-creation glow  
With Order's primal rays,  
While here the sons of God below  
First sang Jehovah's praise.  
The desert opened like a flower  
Unfolding to the sun :  
And great the work, for every hour,  
Two hundred years have done !





The earth, beneath the genial sway  
Of Culture's wand, unsealed  
The wealth that in her bosom lay,—  
Her quickening powers revealed.  
But richer—purer—unconfined  
To time or earthly sphere,  
The spirit gems—the wealth of mind  
With lineal birthright here.

Behold the civil beauty shed  
In wide survey around ;—  
The fields with summer's beauty spread ;—  
The hills with harvest crowned !  
While finite eye must fail to trace  
The shining marks of soul,  
That, dating this its starting-place,  
Has fixed in Heaven the goal !

To-day upon the spot we stand  
Where kneeled our Sires of yore,  
Imploring blessings for the land  
When they should be no more.  
To this they bore the ark of God,  
And left it to their heirs ;  
They left our Priest the budding rod  
That blossoms now, and bears.

And while in yonder quiet graves  
Their hallowed ashes rest,  
Their children, moving as the waves,  
Still guard their dear bequest.  
And lo ! in joyous bands we come,  
Our votive wreaths to twine—  
As brethren to a father-home—  
Round Memory's sacred shrine.

We come their honored names to bless,—  
Their story to prolong,  
Who startled here the wilderness  
With Zion's pealing song ;  
While, bending o'er the battlement  
Of Heaven, they now behold  
The spot whereto their footsteps bent  
In earthly days of old.





To that illustrious ancestry  
 We'll sing aloud our claim,  
 While marching to eternity  
 In their Redeemer's name.  
 Two hundred years of Gospel beams,  
 Diffusing joy and peace,  
 Have here been poured in swelling streams  
 Of glory ne'er to cease!

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 30, 1850.*

### TOPSFIELD CELEBRATION.

The solemnity, already more than once announced in our paper—the commemoration of the Second Centennial of Topsfield—took place on Thursday the 29th inst. The day was fine and most auspicious for the occasion. At an early hour, every avenue leading to the village, was alive with vehicles and with travellers, all conveying and hastening to the interesting scene. At 10 o'clock, a procession was formed on the common near the Meeting House, and proceeded under the direction of Chief Marshall Conant, to the house of Capt. William Munday where it was joined by the President and Orator of the day and by invited guests. The procession then passed under a white arch, neatly ornamented with evergreens, and inscribed with leafy letters, "Centennial Hill." We now found ourselves in a green lane, which soon brought us to a smooth and open lawn, in the centre of which rose the beautiful mound, which is henceforth to bear the name of "Centennial Hill." It is a conical elevation of remarkable regularity, covered to the top, though not densely, with oak trees. From a staff, which rose high above the tallest of these the nation's banner was waving in the breeze. Upon the north side of this charming mound, we found a spectacle of extraordinary animation and beauty. Upon seats which began at the base and reached about half way up the hill, were seated some fifteen hundred ladies. On the outside of these, and reaching quite to the summit, and far around the convexity, were probably as many more, a mingled throng, standing or reclining on the green sward. In front of this vast assemblage, stood the speaker's rostrum, on a small stage. This little structure was a most interesting object. Its verdant decorations, beautifully relieved upon a ground of spotless white, could be the work only of delicate fingers, guided by woman's unerring eye. A tablet in front bore, in large letters, the words, "New Meadows, 1639—Topsfield, 1650." Directly below this tablet, stood an object of no





common interest—an old oak pulpit. A white tablet in front, told its story. Upon this was written in letters of bright purple amaranth, the names 'Capen,' 'Emerson' and the dates '1703-1759.' This relic of the third meeting house in the place, built 147 years ago, and taken down 91 years since, had been carefully preserved by Deacon George Bixby and his son. Behind it stood a high-backed oaken chair, which once stood, as the orator informed us in the course of his address, in that same old pulpit.

The choir was stationed about half-way up the mound and was under the direction of that excellent singer and chorister, Mr. William Hubbard, now of this city, but a native of Topsfield. The first exercise of the day was a voluntary by the choir, sung with much spirit and effect. The piece selected was a very good anthem, composed fifty years ago, in Topsfield, by that once celebrated singer and teacher, Jacob Kimball. The Rev. Mr. Atkinson, of the Methodist church in Topsfield, then read appropriate selections from the Scriptures. The bible used was printed in 1599 and has probably been in Topsfield 200 years. Rev. J. Augustine Hood of Middleton, next read a psalm written for the occasion by Rev. George Hood, of Southport, New York, a native of Topsfield, and set to music by his brother, Mr. Jacob Hood, of this city.

#### Tune—New Meadows.

O all ye people, praise the Lord  
For all his matchless love and grace;  
For true and faithful is his word,  
To all the tribes of Adam's race.

Amid the bold adventurous host,  
Our Fathers sought this distant land,  
And chose this spot, our pride and boast,  
As *home* for their true hearted band.

With prowling beasts, and savage men,  
In faith and hope, they dauntless stood;  
Then sung their anthems yet again,  
And rear'd their altars to their God.

Nerv'd by a living faith, they rose  
O'er ills, and toils, and dangers dire;  
Disease, nor death, nor savage fees,  
Could quench the fervor of their fire.





They toil'd and pray'd ; we Lord are blest.  
 To Thee, O God, shall praise be given  
 Prepare us now, by Sovereign grace,  
 To meet our sainted Sires in heaven.

There we will render ceaseless praise,  
 To Thee, our *fathers'*, and *our* God,  
 To thee, blest SPIRIT, chant our lays,  
 And Thee, Divine, Incarnate WORD.

The Rev. Mr. McLoud, of the Congregational Society, then invoked the blessing of Heaven, in a short but most appropriate prayer. Benj. A. Gould, Esq., of Boston, next read an ode written for the occasion by his sister, Miss Hannah F. Gould, of Newburyport, who was present ; a portion of which was sung by the choir, to the tune of 'Topsfield,' another of Mr. Kimball's productions.

The address was delivered by NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND, Esq., of Brooklyn, New York, eldest son of the late Dr. Cleaveland of Topsfield. The speaker commanded the deeply interested attention of more than three thousand people, for the space of nearly two hours. He fully met the high expectations of the audience, and the magnitude of the occasion. Every one was delighted. The Hon. Mr. Upham, in his speech at the dinner, remarked that, for eloquence, learning, research, humor, beauty and power, the discourse was unsurpassed.

Judge Cummings, and Benj. A. Gould, Esq., spoke of it in similar language, and the enthusiastic responses to these encomiums showed that the speakers uttered but the general sentiment of the assembled multitude. If the orator was fortunate in having so rich a history for his theme, Topsfield was fortunate in having such an orator to illustrate her history. It is of course quite impossible to give more than a brief and imperfect sketch of this able and elaborate discourse.

After an eloquent exordium, Mr. Cleaveland touched upon the aboriginal traditions of the place, once called by its savage occupants, SHE-WE-NE-ME-DY, and by their European successors, NEW MEADOWS, and afterwards incorporated by the name of Topsfield. The latter name was given, not as many suppose, on account of the hills which enclose the valley, but in grateful remembrance of Topsfield or Topesfield in England, from which place some of the early settlers undoubtedly came. The antiquity of the original Topsfield was ingeniously traced to the time of the Cæsars. The corporation of Topsfield is 200 years old, but the first settlement is several years older, dating back as far probably as 1635.





Mr. C. then went into an interesting investigation of the ancient history of the town. It was no dry detail of statistics, but a most animating and inspiring narrative, flowing on with sparkling humor, touching pathos and eloquence, and a still widening channel to the close.

With a masterly power, the departed generations were made to pass before us in living reality. We saw the venerable forms of Bradstreet (the Governor), of Gould, and of Peabody, and Perkins, of Capen, Emerson, Breck, and Huntington; and we seemed to be carried back to the generations to which they belonged.

Some sketches of characters, customs, and scenes within the memory of most persons present, were conceived in the happiest vein of chastened humor. The effect of the whole was eminently salutary; its moral tone was pure and elevated, and was well adapted to stimulate all who heard it to noble aims, and more vigorous endeavors in the great work of life. We are glad to hear that the discourse is to be published. It will be a valuable contribution to the local history of New England.

During the delivery of this long discourse, the vast audience was remarkably quiet and attentive.

At the close of the address, the Rev. E. L. Cleaveland, originally of Topsfield, and now of New Haven, Ct., read an original hymn, which was sung to Old Hundred, by the choir and the immense congregation.

Here, mid the dense, brown, sylvan shade,  
Humbly the banded exiles stood;  
Here, to the One Supreme they prayed,  
Here, with loud anthems shook the wood.

Stout were their hearts and strong their hands,  
And fast the towering forest fell;  
Soon gleamed the day on cultured lands,  
Soon waved with corn each upland swell.

Then came the pious task to rear  
Meet shrines, Benignant Power, for Thee;  
Schools free as air were founded here,  
And Law, and sacred Liberty.

O Thou, whose arm, all powerful, bore  
Those pilgrims o'er the storm-swept sea,  
And helped them plant along this shore,  
These homesteads of the brave and free:

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Here, mid the dense, brown, sylvan shade,  
Humbly the banded angels stood;  
Here, to the One Supreme they prayed,  
Here, with loud anthems shook the wood.

Stout were their hearts and strong their hands,  
And fast the towering forest fell;  
Soon gleamed the day on colored hands,  
Soon waved with corn each upland swell.

Then came the pious task to rear  
Meek shrines, Highborn Power, for Thee;  
Schools free as air were founded here,  
And law, and sacred liberty.

O Thou, whose arm, all powerful, bore  
Those pilgrims o'er the storm-swept sea,  
And helped them plant along this shore,  
These homesteads of the brave and free;



Here, where our fathers hymned thy name,  
List to their grateful children's praise,  
And still be ours the heavenly flame,  
That warmed their hearts in olden days.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Samuel Gould, a native of Topsfield, now of Boothbay, Me. Upon or around the stage we noticed many men of mark from other parts of Essex County. The venerable Mr. Braman of Rowley, Mr. Kimball of Ipswich, Dr. Dana of Newburyport were there. There also were the Rev. Messrs. Worcester, Milton, Braman, Field, Thatcher, Taylor, &c., Rev. Asa Cummings of Portland, Me., Nathaniel Lord, Esq., the aged Register of Probate, Hon. Mr. Upham and Judge Perkins of Salem, Hon. Mr. Dodge of Hamilton, and many others not *less* honorable.

The procession was again formed, and marched down as far as the house of John Cleaveland, Esq., of New York, when it wheeled and countermarched, thus giving all an opportunity to see the whole procession. And it was well worth seeing. The long line of respectable citizens, with their wives, and sons, and daughters, was garnished near its centre by a singular spectacle. There were three young men on horseback, dressed in the costume of 1600, each having on a pillion behind him, a comely companion, similarly arrayed. Others followed in tri-cornered hats, with vast, bushy wigs, and other articles of antiquated garb. One individual seemed to be on his way to mill, for he had on his horse's back, two large bags, apparently of corn. Another was evidently bound for market, being mounted, and having on either side, a large pannier. We saw one lady whose costume of antiquated splendor, and whose immensely deep bonnet, drew much observation. This antique cavalcade was succeeded by an old dobbie of a horse driven by Mr. Edward Hood, drawing a wagon load of relics.—It contained a side-board, said to have belonged to Governor Bradstreet, an ancient oak chest made in 1685, with the original date upon it, an old winnowing fan, a large samp mortar, several snow shoes, some of the implements once used in the dressing of flax, and various agricultural tools, of the most ponderous and uncouth character.

The dinner tables were set beneath a pavilion erected on the common. Though provision was made for about 800 guests, nearly every seat was occupied. Directly over the President's seat, we noticed the old Indian name of the place,—She-we-ne-me-dy. Beneath this were arranged several articles, suggestive of the times when wild beasts and savages were the sole tenants





of the Topsfield woods. Two pairs of moose horns (one pair very large), from Mr. Frank Curtis' collection of trophies; numerous arrow-heads, and stone tools of the aborigines—lent by Major Poore of Indian Hill—and a long halberd, once carried by a Topsfield officer, in the Indian wars, and brought down from Amherst, N. H., by Mr. Peabody, who is one of that officer's descendants.

Dr. E. Huntington of Lowell, eldest son of the Rev. Asahel Huntington, formerly minister of Topsfield was the President of the day. The Rev. Asa Cummings of Portland, Me., the descendant of a Topsfield man craved a blessing. When due justice had been done to the liberal provisions on the table, the President, after a few happy remarks, by way of introduction, proceeded to read the regular sentiments. The first was as follows:

"This day of our solemnities, bright with memories of the Past,—with contemplations of the present—and with hopes of the Future." After the second toast, which was a compliment to the old county of Essex, the President put it upon Mr. Upham of this city to reply, which he did, in a strain of prompt and felicitous remark. He supposed that he had been called on to respond to the sentiment, because he happened to be one of the representatives of the county in the State Senate. He had been invited to attend the celebration, but should have come, had it been otherwise, for he took a deep interest in such meetings, and in the object which brought them together. He alluded very happily to Topsfield as being the heart of the county, and said he had early acquired an interest in its history, while investigating the story of the witchcraft delusion. He dwelt, for a moment, with much eloquence on the admirable character and melancholy fate of Mary Easty, a Topsfield woman, who was hung in that dreadful time. The importance of gathering up and preserving the fragments of tradition and history yet within our reach, was strongly urged. He alluded to the statements of the orator, in regard to the votes and acts of Topsfield, at the time, and before the time of the Revolution, as showing what such investigations always have showed, the high and determined spirit of the people, in those days. But we will not do injustice to his remarks by any further attempt to report them.

The next toast, happily introduced by an allusion to the old pronunciation of the name of the most precious metal, accompanied with the remark that we have no need to search for it in California, as there is plenty of it in Topsfield, was as follows: "The Gould of Topsfield—It was a rich vein at first—it has borne working well—and it still yields sterling ore."





This was responded to by Benj. A. Gould, Esq., of Boston, who said, that though not born in Topsfield, he received the rudiments of his education there. He alluded in terms of high eulogy to his old teacher and minister, the Rev. Asahel Huntington. He referred to his brave ancestor, Lieut. John Gould, who was imprisoned in the time of Andros, for his bold speaking,—a circumstance which had been alluded to in the Address, and in regard to which he stated some additional particulars. He referred also to his grandfather, John Gould, who was, for nineteen eventful and successive years the representative of Topsfield in the General Court—and to his own father, Capt. Benj. Gould, of Topsfield, who took part in the events of the 19th of April and of the 17th of June, 1775, and commanded a company at West Point at the time of Arnold's defection. Mr. Gould concluded with a sentiment complimentary to the orator of the day.

Mr. Cleaveland, being thus called upon, replied, that after having occupied so large a share of the day, he supposed he might be excused if he should not say a word,—but in grateful acknowledgment of the flattering manner in which he had been alluded to, he would offer one or two thoughts. Mr. Cleaveland, then addressing the President, in a playful and amusing strain of remark, observed,—we little thought, sir, of such a scene as this, when, in the little red school-house just referred to by the last speaker, we made our first assaults on the English language—nor when we used, at recess, to run up to the old Capen house for a drink of water—nor when we robbed the meeting house of its gravel, and carried it in our aprons to build piers in the pond, in order to accomodate the navigation of that great inland lake—nor when we fished with pin-hooks in the brook—nor when, on Saturday afternoons, we started off with our birch baskets on our arms, to pick whortleberries in the old parsonage grounds; indeed, little did we think of anything ahead.

“No thought had we of ills to come,  
No cares beyond the day.”

After a few more remarks, Mr. C. repeated a couple of stanzas from the poems of Miss Gould, as happily expressive of the emotions naturally excited on such an occasion.

He then said it was not uncommon on such occasions, to call for either a song or a story. He had attempted to tell his story, and he would give them the song. He then read with much effect the song which follows, premising that it was written by one who if not a daughter of Topsfield, is yet a daughter-in-law,







and who could not, in his opinion, better have appreciated the proprieties of the occasion, had she even been a lineal descendant from old Zach Gould himself.

We the relics of ages, have here met together,  
To say how d'y'e do? to the past;  
And to stop for discourse, Sir, Old Time, in his course, Sir,  
Who once, did not travel so fast.

Then he'd pause on his walk, just to gossip and talk,  
As he shook a few sands from his glass;  
Now he travels by steam, shouting out with a scream,  
"Clear the track, for my engine to pass!"

Come! just throw off your steam; tackle on your old team;  
And jog on in the foot-path today.  
We have met for "a talk:" put your steeds on a walk,  
For, indeed, we've a great deal to say.

We've no victories to boast, and no heroes to toast,  
Save the victors of plough shares and flail:  
The weapons we wield, leave no stain on the field,  
And no cheek in our warfare grows pale.

Well! as matters of pride, what have we, beside  
Our sires, and our sons, and our soil?  
We have mothers, and wives, the best gifts of our lives,  
Sent to soften and cheer all our toil.

We have no railroads here, commanding to "clear  
Off the track, with your cart and your team!"  
No thousand mile wire comes to us with its fire,  
More fleet than the sun's swiftest beam.

Our brook flows on still, just to carry our mill,  
And our mill, like our swine, is corn-fed;  
Our girls work with their mothers, and live with their  
brothers,  
And are to *home* industry bred.

They bloom and they toil, on their own native soil,  
Shedding beauty and fragrance around,  
And no lovelier display, than we see here to-day,  
Could in court or in city be found.





'Tis true, they're not drest in their "blue homespun best,"  
 Once worn more for comfort than show,  
 Our fair modern Jenny—is no spinning Jenny,  
 And our maids are no milk-maids, you know.

Our swains are no more, as their grandsires of yore,  
 Clad in home-spun from head to the heel;  
 They have broadcloth for Mondays, as well as for Sundays,  
 Without mother to spin or to reel.

Our boys too are *shod*—but their forefathers trod  
 The green-sward with feet bare and free;  
*They* could go to a husking without a light buskin,  
 Or their trousers strapped tight o'er the knee.

*They* could catch the old mare, and mounting back-bare,  
 Trot off to the mill and the store,  
 And like Gilpin would ride, with a jug on each side,  
 And a long bag of corn on before.

They'd a very good rule, Sir, which was taught them at  
 school, Sir,  
 Along with their A and their B;  
 When they met with their betters, those small men of  
 letters,  
 How to bend both the head and the knee.

Time keeps jogging along, while I halt in my song,  
 Our Pegasus nags are both lame.  
 I will take off *my* weight, *he* may "gang his ain gate,"  
 'Tis hard his wild coursers to tame.

We have had a good meeting, and a right hearty greeting,  
 With kinsfolk, acquaintance, and friends,  
 So we part not in sadness, but look forward with gladness  
 To a meeting that shall never end.

The following toast succeeded:—"We furnish you to-day,  
 neither *mint* julips nor *anise* cordial:—charge us not with  
 neglecting the weightier matters of the *Law* if we pay our tithe  
 of *cumin*."

This brought up Judge Cummins, a native of Topsfield, who  
 addressed the meeting at some length, in a strain of tender and  
 touching remark. He said he had come hither to see the friends





of his youth. But where had he found them? For the most part, among the dead. He described with much tenderness, his visit, that morning to the family burying-ground—dwelt upon, and commended the increased attention, now paid to rural cemeteries. He urged with much effect, the superior value of moral improvement, as compared with that, which is merely intellectual. He closed with a eulogistic description of his early minister and instructor, the Rev. Mr. Huntington, and advised all the people, who would like to know what sort of man he was, to read, in the 'Deserted Village' of Goldsmith, that inimitable description of the village parson.

At this point, the President of the Day was compelled to leave, and called Mr. N. Cleaveland to the chair.

The next toast was as follows: "Lieutenant Francis Peabody—The patriarchal head of a mighty host. There have been few armies better officered."

The President, after waiting a few moments, remarked that as every descendant of the old Lieutenant, seemed disposed to dodge, he would call upon a gentleman whom he saw at the Table, who though his name might seem to justify dodging, was never known to *Dodge* any responsibility.

This called to his feet the Hon. Allen W. Dodge, of Hamilton, who stated, that since he had been here, he had almost made up his mind to become a *native* of Topsfield. After expressing his high satisfaction with all the performances of the occasion, he spoke of the Topsfield farmers, as ranking among the best and most intelligent in the County, and alluded with much felicity, to the ancient implements of husbandry, in Mr. Hood's old wagon, and remarked upon the difficulties under which the farmers of former days labored in the hard task of subduing the soil, and concluded with a sentiment complimentary to the Topsfield farmers.

The next toast was this: "The descendants of Mr. William Perkins. They have reason to be proud of their ancestors—and he would not blush, could he now behold his sons."

The President stated that it had been expected that Judge Perkins, of Salem, a lineal descendant of the old settler, named in the toast, would be present and address us in reply. But instead of being here—he had sent an interesting epistle, full of good thoughts and wishes and concluding with this toast: "*The early Puritan settlers of Topsfield.* May their descendants this day assembled to venerate their memory, imbibe a fresh and copious draught of their spirit—and may the dawn never harbinger the day, when that spirit shall become extinct."







"The Law Officer for Essex County: a son of Topsfield,—long and well approved by all the friends of order and good morals. We never heard the others praise him.

'What rogue e'er felt the halter draw  
With good opinion of the law!'"

The gentleman, here referred to, who was present a short time before the toast was given, is supposed to have received some sudden and imperative call on official business, for no answer came to the sentiment.

"The mothers and daughters of our town, with their sisters from elsewhere, who grace our festival to-day: They belong to that moiety of the human family, which was once toasted, somewhere hereabouts, as 'the Fair Sect.' If the adhesion to them *sectarianism*, then we are all *sectarians*."

"She-we-ne-me-dy, and the symbols which remind us of our tawny predecessors. We would like to *hear*, as well as see some- from *Indian Hill*."

Major Ben. Perley Poore then favored the company with some easy and happy remarks. He began by intimating that the President must have forgotten some portion of his experience, when at Dummer Academy, or he would not now have called upon *him* to say anything. *His* business he said, was that of a *reporter*, rather than of a *maker* of speeches. He alluded to the Indian relics which he had contributed, and spoke of those brave old hunters and warriors to whom those relics once belonged. He spoke of the occasion and of the display which he had witnessed, and intimated that it compared favorably with anything which he had witnessed in other and older portions of the world. A sentiment, complimentary to the hills and the sons, the vales and the daughters of Topsfield, concluded his remarks.

"Topsfield Farmers. Through all the past, they have been a valiant and sturdy race. May their sons, through all the future, maintain the habits, the principles, and the virtues which made their fathers so respectable."

Deacon Joel Peabody of Topsfield, responded. He said he would not contend that the present farmers of Topsfield, are as *sturdy* as their fathers—that they are not as *valiant*, remains to be proved. He showed how the sons might realize the wish expressed in the sentiment, namely: by cherishing habits of industry and virtue, by the cultivation and improvement of their minds, and by showing the same high regard for religion, which distinguished their ancestors.

"The early Batchellers of Topsfield: we of the present day may congratulate ourselves that their name and their practice





were not co-incident." Jacob Batchelder, Esq., of Lynn, being summoned to reply, amused and interested the company, for a few moments, by an account of the perplexity which he had experienced that morning on his first arrival in town. He supposed himself to be on the right road and near the village, when a large flag stretched over the way seemed to intimate that he was in a place called New Meadows. While he was deliberating what to do, he saw another inscription, which re-assured him and he went forward. The next thing that puzzled him, was the crowd of people, which he saw in the street. The Topsfield, which he knew, contained only eight or nine hundred inhabitants. The place he was now in, must have many thousands. Pretty soon he encountered a number of persons, who from the style of their hats, and wigs and dress, must certainly belong to some earlier period of the world. Had the generations, long departed, come again upon the stage? Fortunately, his doubts were at length resolved by meeting several old faces and familiar friends. He ended by a pleasing allusion to an incident in the life of the famous Mungo Park, who, when asked by an African woman, why he consulted his little pocket compass, replied, "Because it always points to where my mother lives." He thought that many long absent sons of Topsfield, whom he saw before him, and who had come from states far distant and widely remote must have been guided by some such little index to their mother-home.

The President held up a small brass box, which he said once belonged to Polin\* Wildes, whose name occurs among the earliest settlers of the town. Mr. Wildes was a surveyor, and was often employed in this and the other provinces. The little box—like that to which the last speaker had alluded, contained a compass—and had undoubtedly been the companion and guide of the old surveyor in many a trackless forest. The following toast was then read." The compass, which guided through these wilds, the first of the Wildeses. Thanks to those hardy pioneers, their posterity requires no such aid." The Wildeses were here called on to speak—but the call did not seem to be heard. "Thomas Perkins, the first of Topsfield. Of his numerous, prosperous and widely-spread descendants, there must be some one here, who can speak for the family." Horatio N. Perkins, Esq., of Boston, came forward to this call. He told us that he claimed the honor of a descent from that good Deacon Thomas Perkins. That his grandfather removed from Topsfield, at a time when it had become comparatively old, into the woods of Maine, settling

\*John?—Editor.





in a place which had then no name, but which afterwards became Kennebunk Port; he spoke of the pleasant visits, which he had heretofore made in Topsfield, to look up the homes of his remote ancestors, and to learn something of their history, and concluded with an appropriate sentiment.

*Topsfield Manufacturers—*

A stirring, thriving set are they,  
Who e'er caught them a napping?  
Or passed their busy shops by day,  
And did not hear their tapping?

"Our country? its population, which in 1650 consisted of a few thousands, has swelled to many millions. The small dependent colonies of that day have grown into a great nation; scarcely inferior to any other in numbers and power,—second to none, in the better elements of prosperity, intelligence, good government, and true liberty. In view of a past and present so astounding, will any imagination venture to conceive what will be the grandeur and glory of North America, a century hence! May prosperity attend the old town of Topsfield! God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and long preserve the Union."

In the course of these exercises, a fine ode written by Mrs. S. D. Peabody, of Topsfield, and also a glee, were sung by a quartette, consisting of Messrs. W. R. Hubbard, B. Whitmore, G. H. Smith, M. Horn.

ODE—BY MRS. S. D. PEABODY.

As children long from home away,  
Hail the glad jubilee,  
Which finds them all in fair array,  
Beneath the old roof-tree:—

So we to-day rejoicing come,  
Kindred and friends to greet,  
And give affection's tear to some,  
We would, but cannot, meet.

Here, where our happy childhood sped,  
'Till graver years drew on,  
And, 'till as varying fortunes led,  
We parted, one by one.





Here—where amid primeval shades,  
But not of classic fame,  
Our sires, from England's blooming glades,  
To toil and trial came—

Here meet we—glad, a day's brief space  
To give to auld lang syne,—  
And o'er our fathers' resting place,  
A garland green to twine.

Those fathers' memory we bless,  
Oft as we hear the tale,  
Whose hands transformed a wilderness  
To this delightful vale.

Yet, chiefly, that from them we gain,  
Through each successive age,  
A lineage without a stain,—  
Our noblest heritage.

Their glory this—a virtuous name!  
Earth has no richer crown:  
Spotless to us the honor came,  
Such, let us pass it down.

The last exercise was an original song by a native of Topsfield sung to the air of auld lang syne, by Mr. B. Whitmore. An immense number joined in the chorus, and produced a highly inspiring influence.

#### SONG.

I'll sing a song of other days,  
A tale of ancient time  
Come brothers, all, the chorus raise,  
And lift a shout sublime.  
For auld lang syne, to-day,  
For auld lang syne,  
We've gathered and we'll chant a lay  
Of auld lang syne.

Praise to our sires, the axe who swung,  
First on the wooded plains,  
While wide the forest round them rung,  
And hills replied again.



For auld lang syne, come out,  
 For auld lang syne,  
 And celebrate the woodsmen stout,  
 For auld lang syne.

In vain, was bent the red man's bow,  
 In vain his arrow sped,  
 For soon repulsed, the savage foe  
 To wilds remoter fled.  
 For auld lang syne again,  
 For auld lang syne  
 We sing those sturdy Englishmen  
 Of auld lang syne.

Long o'er the land which they regained  
 From Nature's ruder sway,  
 Peace, order, justice, freedom reigned,  
 A bright and tranquil day.  
 For auld lang syne once more,  
 For auld lang syne,  
 We con the pleasing legends o'er  
 Of auld lang syne.

When dark? Oppression, threat'ning rose,  
 And Might, usurping, grew,—  
 Submission base, the choice, or blows,  
 To arms, our father flew.  
 For auld lang syne, these strains,  
 For auld lang syne,  
 We swell to those who broke our chains,  
 In auld lang syne.

On Bunker's hill of glorious name,  
 And on the Hudson's side,  
 And many a deathless field of fame,  
 They poured their heart's warm tide.  
 For auld lang syne, we shed,  
 For auld land syne,  
 Our tears above the mighty dead  
 Of auld land syne.

Long may the rights those heroes won  
 From Power's reluctant hand,  
 Unmarred descend from sire to son,  
 The glory of our land.





For auld lang syne to-day,

For auld lang syne,

We've gathered and we've sung our lay

Of auld land syne.

The singing, both in the grove and in the Pavilion, was executed in admirable style. The Salem Band under the direction of Mr. Morse, performed their part, in the march, at the grove, and in the Pavilion, to the full satisfaction of all. The thanks of the Assembly were voted with great seeming cordiality to the COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS, (Messrs. Merriam, Cleaveland, Munday, Batchelder, Hood and Towne), and well did they deserve the tribute. The unqualified satisfaction, expressed by all, whether citizens or strangers, in the entire proceedings of this delightful day, unmarred as they were by a single disturbance or failure, is the highest testimony, which could be paid to the arrangements of the committee, so well carried out by the chief marshal and his aids and assistants.

In the course of the proceedings, it was announced that answers had been received from several gentlemen to whom letters of invitation had been sent. We have room to give only the names of these gentlemen. The Rev. Josiah Peabody of Erzroom in Persia, Hon. Daniel Breck, member of the present Congress from Kentucky, Rev. George Hood, Southport, N. Y., Rev. Jonas Merriam, Barnard, Me., N. Cleaveland Bradstreet, Rochester, N. Y. all of whom are natives of Topsfield. One also from Rodney Gove Dennis, of Grafton, Mo., formerly a minister in Topsfield, and one from Hon. Daniel A. White of Salem.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 3, 1850.*

ASSISTANT MARSHALL. Thos. L. Lane, of Topsfield, has been appointed Assistant Marshall, to take the census in Topsfield and Middleton.

*Salem Register, Aug. 22, 1850.*

#### FOR THE REGISTER.

CELEBRATION IN TOPSFIELD. Thursday next, the 29th of August, will be a day of much interest to the citizens of Topsfield, who will then celebrate the Second Centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town. Many of their kindred and friends, from Salem and elsewhere, will be present to enjoy the festivities of the occasion; and as there is no regular mode of conveyance thence from this city, by which persons can go and return on the same day, the writer would suggest, to those who





may be interested, that a coach, or perhaps a number of coaches, to leave Salem at an early hour on the morning of the 29th, and to return after the celebration shall have closed, might be well freighted with passengers, if they should be provided for the occasion, and seasonable notice of the fact advertised in the city papers. Will not some of the owners of coaches attend to this matter?

Y.

*Salem Register, Aug. 22, 1850.*

#### CONVEYANCE TO TOPSFIELD.

MR. S. SPAULDING, proprietor of the North Danvers Stage, states that he will take passengers to Topsfield, THIS MORNING, at a quarter before 8 o'clock, and at a quarter past 10 o'clock, and will return at the close of the exercises. Fare each way 50 cents. Passengers will be taken from the Salem Depot, the Essex House, and the Mansion House.

*Salem Register, Aug. 29, 1850.*

#### BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

TOPSFIELD, AUG. 29, 1850.

In accordance with a custom which is yearly becoming more and more popular, a few days ago we embraced the opportunity of quitting our usual round of daily toil, for a short season of healthful rusticity among the woods and fields, and rural scenes of this pleasant town, which we are proud to claim as the place of our nativity. Eighteen years of absence have only served to strengthen the memory and enhance the attachment we have ever felt for this home of our childhood. The bustle and excitement, the pomp and pageantry of city life, have only rendered more vivid the sentiment so well and so briefly expressed by Goldsmith—

“Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,  
My heart, untrav'l'd, fondly turns to thee.”

The stirring and extraordinary events of to-day, on which we celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town, evince to what an extent this feeling pervades the hearts of the native-born sons and daughters of this ancient town. At an early hour this morning, vehicles of every description began to pour in from all points of the compass, bringing hundreds, nay, thousands of men, women and children, eager to witness and participate in the festivities of the day. The village presented a spectacle of busy life and bustling activity, such as





has seldom ruffled the quiet of its peaceful borders. The joyful greetings of relatives long separated by time and distance, and the smiling recognition of friends whom no other event would ever have called together, and many of whom may to-day, for the last time, have exchanged mutual and heartfelt congratulations, have given a pleasing and exciting character to the occasion, which must ever remain fresh in the memory of every one present.

The Indian name of this town, as you are aware, was SHEWEE-NE-MEA-DY. The land belonged to the tribes of the Agawams, by whose chief it was sold to John Winthrop, eldest son of Governor Winthrop, in the year 1638 for £20. At the session of November 5, 1639, it was granted to the inhabitants of Salem and Ipswich, and was by the whites called "New Meadows." The place was settled about this time. On the 18th of October, 1650, it was incorporated as the Town of Topsfield—a name which was borne by a small village in the county of Essex, in England, and whose etymology has been traced back, into the dim ages of the past, no less than 800 years. The anticipatory celebration of the bi-centennial anniversary, which would properly occur on the 18th of October next, was rendered necessary for the accommodation of the orator, as well as desirable on account of the season.

At 10 o'clock A. M., a procession was formed on the Common, under the direction of Major Nathaniel Conant, which, preceded by the music of Morse's Salem Brass Band, moved through the village to the grove where the Address was to be pronounced. The entrance to the grove, from the main road—across which was stretched the national ensign—was decorated with an arch, tastefully trimmed with evergreen, and bearing the inscription, "Centennial Hill," formed of oak-leaves. This hill, on land of Edward Hood, Esq., is a beautiful, semi-circular mound, tolerably shaded with a young growth of forest trees, and on its top, from an elevated staff, waved the American flag. On a portion of its eastern side, seats had been erected for the accommodation of about 1000 persons; and at its base stood a canopied pavilion, some 10 feet wide by 12 or 14 high, for the orator and others. This was trimmed on the outside with the savin shrub, the inside being lined with white cloth, relieved in the rear by three arches of oak-leaves, in the centre of each of which was a winter-green star, encircled in a wreath of evergreen, with bouquets of green and flowers beneath. The upper front bore the inscription,

NEW MEADOWS,

1639

TOPSFIELD

1650





The whole was surmounted by an iron weather-vane, some 12 inches long by 5 wide, in which the date 1697 was cut. This ancient indicator of "the way the wind blows" was taken from the second meeting house in the town, erected in the old burial ground, in 1676. Among the ancient relics that adorned the interior of this pavilion, was the paneled pulpit from which the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Capen and John Emerson delivered their gospel messages to our fathers, in the first church erected on the Common (three, including the present neat structure, have been successively built on the same site), from 1703 to 1759. At the left hand side of the pulpit, supported by an iron rod about 2 1-2 feet long, was its former concomitant the "hour glass," which, in the absence of clocks and watches, was then used to indicate the passage of time—the sand requiring just one hour to run from one globe to the other. When the upper section of the glass was empty, it was reversed by the sexton; and thus, by the dropping "sands of time," the good parson would regulate the religious services of the sanctuary. In the rear of the pulpit stood the same high-back, unstuffed chair that kept it companionship, in the church mentioned above, for 56 years, and is now nearly 150 years old.

About 11 o'clock, the procession having arrived at Centennial Hill—the whole eastern side of which, from base to apex, was crowded with a dense mass of human beings, to the number of from two to three thousand—the services were conducted in the following order, viz. :—

1. Voluntary, by a select choir, including several of the best vocalists in Salem, under the leadership of Mr. Wm. Hubbard,\* long known in your vicinity as an able and successful teacher of music.

2. Reading of the Scriptures, by Rev. Mr. Atkinson, of the Methodist church, from a Bible printed in 1599.

3. Original Hymn, by Rev. George Hood,\* sung to a tune composed by Jacob Hood,\* Esq., of Salem.

4. Some slight delay being occasioned by altering the location of the pulpit, so as to shield the speaker's face from the direct rays of a scorching sun, the choir performed another voluntary, entitled "Topsfield."

5. Prayer, by Rev. Anson McLoud, of the Congregationalist church.

6. An original ode, by Hannah Flagg Gould of Newburyport.

7. Address, by NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND,\* Esq., formerly preceptor of Dummer Academy, in Byfield, and now a teacher in Brooklyn, N. Y.

\*Native, but non-resident of Topsfield.





The address of Mr. Cleaveland was an effort of unsurpassed ability. Although he has had but one month to investigate the records of five or six generations, and prepare himself to meet the demands of the occasion, the result of his labors evinces a very extensive research, and a careful collation and judicious arrangement of materials, which he has presented in a most able, eloquent, and interesting manner. For two long hours he enchaind the attention of that vast audience, in the open air, who seemed to hang upon his words as if under the influence of a mighty spell. His address was eminently patriotic, manly and just; his enunciation bold, powerful, and clear, though somewhat rapid. No mere sketch, however faithful, could convey an adequate idea of the whole performance, and we will not do the orator the injustice to attempt one—especially as the Address is to be issued in pamphlet form. Its principal divisions embraced the civil and municipal affairs of the town; its ecclesiastical history; its schools and schoolmasters; its doctors and lawyers; the genealogy of the first and most distinguished families of the town; its ancient houses; a consideration of the question whether we have made any actual advance upon the past; and a comparison of the superior privileges and advantages enjoyed by the people of the present day over those possessed by their worthy ancestors. The speaker's occasional attempts at pleasantry were peculiarly happy, giving evidence of a rich vein of satirical humor, in the mental strata of his well cultivated mind, seldom to be met with. At the same time that these touches were spicy, and inoffensive, they were, in several instances, highly complimentary to their subject. The address was not only instructive, but intensely interesting throughout.

8. An original Hymn, by the orator of the day, sung by the whole assembly to the tune of Old Hundred, and a Benediction, closed the services at the grove, at half past 1 P. M.

In honor of native genius and talent, the music performed on this occasion, except the first and last tunes, was selected from the works of the late Jacob Kimball, a celebrated teacher and composer of music, who was born in Topsfield, in February, 1761. He was a graduate of Harvard University, of the class of 1780. After completing a course of law studies, he was admitted to the bar, and pleaded at least one case; but he relinquished the pursuit of the law, and devoted himself almost exclusively to the study and composition of music. In 1793, he published a volume of sacred music, of 112 pages, entitled the "Rural Harmony," another in 1800, the "Essex Harmony," of 112 pages, both composed by himself; as also a manuscript volume of sacred music never published. He was likewise a disciple of the poetic





mus, and wrote a volume which he intended for the press; but dying soon after, the work fell into stranger hands and was lost. He died on the 24th of July, 1826, aged 65 years and 5 months.

The procession was re-formed at the grove, whence it proceeded to a large pavilion on the eastern side of the Common, where a sumptuous dinner had been provided for some 825 persons, by Mr. John Wright of Boston. But before indulging in the luxuries of the table, we will take a brief survey of the procession, which contains some rare and noticeable features. Prominent among them were three young gentlemen and their ladies, dressed in the rich and peculiar costume of the wealthier classes in the early days of New England, and mounted upon pillions—a mode of equestrian travel on which the march of civilization has made no improvement. The general paraphernalia of the ladies consisted of figured and changeable open silk dresses, displaying richly wrought and brilliantly colored skirts, and plain muslin inside handkerchiefs—the sleeves were short, with double ruffles falling over the elbows, and long mits. Over the neck and shoulders were thrown small, colored shawls, trimmed with lace. We believe the bonnet, or hat was of the cottage style, but of its form we can give no intelligible description. The gentlemen wore long, light coats, breeches with knee-buckles, wrought shoes with buckles, light-colored, curled wigs, three-cornered hats, and spectacles. Two or three other gentlemen were arrayed in the more common dress of the laboring classes, mounted on horses, with their bags of corn and market baskets behind them—the mode of “going to mill” and market, before the invention or common use of wagons. In the assembly on the hill, we noticed a lady dressed in a costly habit, that was worn 150 years ago.

Following these was a light wagon, containing a variety of relics, from 100 to 200 years old. Among them was an oak, paneled side-board, formerly the property of Gov. Simon Bradstreet, who emigrated from England and was an early resident of Topsfield, and whose dust now reposes in the Charter street burial-ground, in your city. Also, a paneled oak chest, made in 1685; a wooden samp-mortar, in which corn was formerly prepared for samp; a steel bear-trap; wool card; garter loom; snow shoes; piggin; wooden rye-cradle; saddle bags; wooden scales, with stone weights of 1 lb. each; wooden shovels, bound with iron, &c. &c. On a long board, conspicuously displayed, were the following:

A title deed, from “John Gold, jr., and Thomas Gold,” conveying about 3,000 acres of land to John Gold, sen., their father, in 1686.





A printed commission, from "Wm. Stoughton, Esq., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England," Captain of the Foot Company of Militia in the Town of Topsfield, within the County of Essex, dated August, 1696.

A copy of the Declaration of Independence, printed in 1776, and bought at that time by the late Rev. Daniel Gould, of Topsfield, a soldier of the Revolution.

A sheet of manuscript poetry, written in 1741, by David Stanley of this town.

Also two poetical effusions, printed in 1776, and written by Mr. John Hovey, of Topsfield. The first is entitled, in part, "Oppression: A Poem. Or, New-England's lamentation on the dreadful Extortion and other sins of the Times." The other, "A Short Account of the Troubles and Dangers our Forefathers met with to obtain this land: Shewing the Right their Children have to it at this Day."

A large quarto volume of 778 pages, entitled "A six-fold Commentarie on the Booke of Leviticus," by "Andrew Willet, Dr. of Divinitie," printed in London in 1631.

Three specimens of colonial "shin-plasters," issued in 1775, 1776, and 1778.

An Almanac, by Nathaniel Ames, printed in 1737.

A "Discourse of Housbandrie," dated 1580.

Nearly all the relics in this vehicle are now the property of Edward Hood, Esq. The Gov. Bradstreet sideboard belongs to Mr. William Waite.

The Dinner was equally successful with all the other arrangements of the day. Dr. Elisha Huntington\* of Lowell, presided, and addresses were made by him, by Hon. Charles W. Upham; by the Orator, Mr. Cleaveland; B. A. Gould, Esq., of Boston; Judge Cummins,\* formerly of Salem; Hon. Allen W. Dodge of Hamilton; Maj. B. Perley Poore; Dea. Peabody, and others. Songs, Glees, Instrumental music and Sentiments were freely interspersed—an admirable quartette club from your city, and Morse's excellent band, led by the "silver bugle," furnishing music of a superior order.

Mr. Upham touched very happily upon some incidents which had been alluded to in Mr. Cleaveland's Address, connected with the witchcraft delusion, and with the history of old Gov. Bradstreet. In reference to the Governor, I quote a passage from Mr. U's Fourth of July Oration in 1842, where the same topic is very graphically discussed as follows:

In 1684, the charter was taken away, and Massachusetts re-

\*Native, but non-resident of Topsfield.







duced to a subject Province. But the period of fifty-five years, during which the satisfactions and the privileges of self-government had been experienced, stamped the character of the people forever. Two successive generations had been thoroughly saturated with the spirit of liberty. It had become mingled with their very heart's blood, and ever after naturally descended in their race as a constitutional and inherent element. No oppression could eradicate, and no lapse of time could exhaust it. The tree had taken root deep in the soil, fastening itself inextricably to the primitive granite of the globe itself; its trunk was clothed with a rugged strength that no storms nor hurricanes could break or bend; and branches were put forth which will surely spread until the whole continent reclines beneath their peaceful shade.

The abrogation of the charter of Massachusetts was one of the first fruits of the restoration of the Stuarts to the English throne, on the ruins of the cause of civil and religious liberty. It was resolved by that despotic dynasty to trample out the last spark of freedom on both sides of the Atlantic. Regular troops were, for the first time, sent over to the colonies to overawe and enslave the people. Their several governments were abolished. Their Houses of Assembly were dissolved, and all power was concentrated in the unrestrained hands of a Governor General appointed by the crown. Few in number as the colonists then were, and unbounded as was the arbitrary power of the mother country, such a destruction of their most sacred rights was not unresistingly borne, and it is to the honor of the people of Essex county that no where was the resistance bolder and no where were such heavy penalties incurred in consequence. But open and general rebellion was vain. To attempt it then would have been insanity, and a suffering and indignant people had no alternative but to bide its time.

About three years after this tyrannical system of colonial administration had been established a rumor reached Boston that the Prince of Orange had landed in England to dethrone James the Second, and before waiting for the confirmation of the rumor, or the result of the expedition, the irrepressible spirit of the people burst forth, they rushed from all quarters into Boston, seized the Royal Governor in his fort and imprisoned him there, and with acclamations of unbounded joy, reinstated their charter government, called back old Simon Bradstreet to the chair of state, and again for a brief period enjoyed the sweets of liberty and independence.

This daring movement proves the efficacy of the training the people of Massachusetts had experienced under the old charter. They had become already true sons of liberty, and feared to meet





no danger in her cause. And what a venerable and sublime spectacle it was to see Bradstreet re-appear on the public stage; He had come over to America, then a young man, in company with Winthrop; he had lived, and been a conspicuous actor, through the whole period of the early liberties of New England; he was occupying, by the choice of the people, the chief magistracy of the colony when the charter was abrogated, and now, although eighty-six years of age, the venerable patriot is again at his post. Brave old man! What a spirit must have been enshrined in that aged form! With what a venerable dignity must those white locks have been crowned! Happy the people who were able to command the services, and to appreciate the wisdom, of such a patriarch! It is an interesting circumstance to us that this Nestor of New England closed his life in Salem. He died in 1697, having reached the great age of 94 years. His ashes rest in our soil.

Dr. Huntington resigned the chair at an early hour, and was succeeded by Mr. Cleaveland who discharged the duties very felicitously and acceptably. Letters were read from distinguished natives of Topsfield, who were unable to be present, and a humorous poem, composed for the occasion by a lady. An original ode, also, was sung by the quartette club. Ladies graced the tables by their presence—a novel feature at our public dinners, but one which ought to be more generally adopted. The festivities were prolonged until 6 o'clock, P. M., when the company adjourned with reluctance, having enjoyed a day of uninterrupted pleasure. A ball in the evening closed this glorious Bi-Centennial celebration.

On motion of Asahel Huntington,\* Esq., it was unanimously voted that the Address and a detailed account of the proceedings be published, in a form suitable for permanent preservation.

S. N. Y.

*Salem Register, Sept. 2, 1850.*

## THE TOPSFIELD CELEBRATION.

### CENTENNIAL HYMNS.

We meet to sing this morning,  
Of scenes long passed away,  
In happiness rejoicing,  
That we have met to-day.  
We've met to thank that Father  
Who guards us here below,  
As did our ancient Sires,  
Two Hundred years ago.

\*Native, but non-resident of Topsfield.





We've met, a prayer to offer  
 To Him, who rules the sphere,  
 That we may never wander,  
 But follow, love and fear  
 Our blessed Lord and Master,  
 Where bliss like rivers flow  
 As did our Pilgrim Fathers  
 Two Hundred years ago.

Prepare us Lord, to meet them,  
 In that bright world of joy,  
 With loving smiles to greet them,  
 Where nought can us annoy.  
 To meet, in realms of glory,  
 Our Fathers :—there to know :  
 They lived on earth before us,  
 Two Hundred years ago.

We thank Thee, for this favour,  
 Of meeting here to-day  
 And may it be recorded,  
 When we have passed away.  
 We thank Thee for each blessing  
 That we receive below,  
 As did our Pilgrim Fathers,  
 Two Hundred years ago.

*Topsfield, Aug. 1850.*

F. G. P

Come, Fathers, wives and children,  
 Come—all without delay ;  
 Come—celebrate with pleasure,  
 This anniversary day.

Come—with your hearts o'er flowing,  
 With thankfulness and praise ;  
 To Him, who guards us daily,  
 To Him, your praises raise.

Our Fathers braved all dangers,  
 And cross'd the Ocean's waves ;  
 Then settled in these vallies,  
 Beside the red man's graves.





God heard their prayers and praises,  
 And saw their sorrows too!  
 And answered them with mercies,  
 That we to-day do view.

Behold *our* pleasant village,  
 'Twas once a pathless wood:  
 Two Hundred years of changes,  
 Has brought us all this good.

Now let our praise ascending,  
 Be heard both far and near  
 That every son of freedom,  
 In bliss and peace may hear.

May God, who reigns in heaven,  
 Our constant helper be;  
 And save our land from danger  
 And keep our nation free.

*Topsfield, Aug. 1850.*

O. P. H.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 10, 1850.*

#### *Administrator's Sale.*

By order of Probate Court, will be sold at Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 14th day of October next, at 3 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, SO MUCH OF THE REAL ESTATE of ELIZABETH TOWNE, late of Topsfield, single woman, deceased, as will raise the sum of four hundred thirty dollars, for the payment of her just debts and incidental charges.

Said estate is situated in the southwesterly part of Topsfield, and consists of about ten acres of Pasture and Meadow—Land bounded by land of Daniel and Sewall Towne, and others.

Also—the right of redemption of about six acres of Pasture Land, with a small house thereon—bounded by the aforesaid lot and land of the estate of Lydia Towne, deceased.

Also—the right of redemption of one undivided third part of about 27 acres of Pasture and Meadow Land—bounded northwardly by the aforesaid lots,—and owned in common with David Towne, and the estate of Lydia Towne, and known as the "Ackley thirds;" at which time the undivided right belonging to the estate of Lydia Towne will be sold.

Conditions made known at the sale.

JOHN G. HOOD, Adm'r.

*Topsfield, Sept. 21, 1850.*

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1850.*





At the exhibition of the Essex Agricultural Society held in Salem, Sept. 25 and 26, Messrs. Lake exhibited 102 kinds of fruit, from their nursery, in Topsfield, namely—

*Pears*,—Beurre d'Amalis, Catalac, Dix, Buffum, Vicar of Winkfield, Easter Beurre, Seckel, Duchess d'Angouleme, Beurre Diel, Glout Morceau, Dunmore, Harvard, St. Ghislain, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Andrews, Napoleon Seedling, Golden Beurre, Belle Lucrative, Frederick of Wertemburg, Long Green, Cushing, Winter Nelis, Bartlett, Dearborn's Seedling, Fulton, and several Seedlings. *Plums*,—Black Imperial, Green Gage, New Orleans, Prince's Imperial. *Peaches*,—Jaques, Manning's Red, Yellow, Alberge, Napoleon, Early Crawford, Brown, Jenk's Red, seedlings. *Grapes*,—3 kinds of cultivated native. *Quinces*,—Orange. *Apples*,—Perkin's Sweet, Minister, Danvers Sweet, Golden Russet, Baking Sweet, York Greening, Cart House, Spitzenburg, Red Eagle, Striped Sweet, Kilham Hill, Jenny Lind, (a beautiful new specimen), Fall Harvey, York Russet, Baldwin, Alexander, Winter Green, Yellow Bellflower, Porter, R. Island Greening, Russet Pearmain, Roxbury Russet, Hubbard, None such, Aunt Hannah, White Bellflower, Ribstone Pippin, Golden Queen, Gilliflower.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 27, 1850.*

**GEORGETOWN RAILROADS.** In addition to the two chartered and surveyed Railroad routes, continuing the Newburyport Railroad from Georgetown by one route to the Boston and Maine Railroad at Bradford and by the other to the Essex Railroad at North Andover, we learn that the question of reviving the old Salem and Georgetown railroad route, so far at least as from Georgetown, by the way of Boxford and Topsfield, to the Essex Railroad at North Danvers is again agitated, and that measures are in progress to call an early meeting of the friends of the project with a view to promote its completion.—*Reg.*

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 27, 1850.*

**FIRE IN TOPSFIELD.** About 8 o'clock last evening (Friday), a barn belonging to Miss Mulliken, in Topsfield, near the meeting house, was struck by lightning, and totally destroyed, with all its contents, including ten tons of hay. Six persons were in the barn, when it was struck, but none of them were injured. The loss was about \$500. Insured for \$150 at the Holyoke Mutual Office.

After the above was in type, we received from an attentive correspondent in Topsfield, the following additional particulars :





The barn belonged to Mrs. Mulliken of Salem, and was entirely consumed, together with eight or ten tons of hay, and a quantity of grain and beans belonging to Mr. Allen Gould, and several cords of wood belonging to an occupant of her house. In one end of the barn was a shoemakers' shop, having in it six or eight men at work, but no one experienced any other injury than a severe shock. A considerable quantity of leather was in the shop, belonging to Mr. C. Herrick, which was destroyed, together with the seats and tools of the workmen. At the time of the fire the rain came down in torrents, nevertheless, the inhabitants turned out, to the number of five or six hundred, but could afford but little assistance, as the barn was completely on fire in a few moments.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 28, 1850.*

## HAVERHILL AND SALEM STAGE

### REGULAR LINE

Stage leaves Eagle House, House, Haverhill, every morning, at 6 1-4 o'clock, connecting with the morning train at Georgetown, for Newburyport, and connecting in Salem with the trains for Marblehead and Lynn.

Returning—leaves Salem at 3 1-2 P. M., and arrives in Georgetown in season for the evening train passengers for Haverhill.

☞ The subscriber having been many years on this route, solicits the patronage of all who may wish any business transacted between Haverhill and Salem, assuring them that any business entrusted to his care, will be promptly and faithfully attended to.

ISAAC PINKHAM.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 5, 1850.*

DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD. A meeting in favor of this project was held at North Danvers, on the 15th inst., and was well attended by gentlemen from Georgetown, Boxford, Topsfield, North and South Danvers, and Salem.

The meeting was organized by the choice of Samuel P. Fowler as chairman, and W. L. Weston as secretary.

A good degree of interest was manifested, and there was a general expression of opinion that the road could be built and sustained. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to procure subscriptions for a survey and to cause the same to be made, and also to petition the Legislature for a charter—





namely: John A. Lovering, David M. Winter, Georgetown. Thomas Perley, Samuel Kimball, Boxford. Asa Pingree, John Wright, Topsfield. Joseph S. Black, Daniel Richards, Wm. H. Little, Danvers.

A handsome sum was subscribed at the meeting, and measures will be immediately taken to have a survey made. The meeting adjourned to the 15th of November.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 18, 1850.*

#### FOR THE GAZETTE

### DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

This project, for which a charter was granted five years since and suffered to expire, is again revived, under encouraging circumstances. Recent surveys, by an experienced Engineer, demonstrate that a junction of the Essex and Georgetown Railroads can be made, by building less than *twelve miles* of new road. One route passes from Danvers Plains, easterly of the River Hill in Topsfield, near Topsfield Meeting House, across Hood's Pond, to Georgetown Corner. The other passes westerly of the River Hill, crossing Ipswich River, near Rowley Bridge, thence through South Boxford to the same point. The estimated expense of either of these routes may be set down, on the principles assumed by the Engineers at . . . \$150,000 to this sum to be added for contingencies . . . 50,000

the probable cost of proposed road will be . . . \$200,000 or about \$16,000 per mile.

It is stated, by the Engineers, that no part of the grade on either route need exceed forty feet to the mile; and that there will be no necessity of more than one mile exceeding 30 feet to the mile. If this contemplated route of Railroad can be completed, the County of Essex would then have all Railroad facilities desirable. The energy and ability of those who move in this enterprise, gives assurance that it will be done.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 30, 1850.*

### MARRIAGES

In Topsfield, in the Methodist Church, by Rev. Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Joseph Horton, of Ipswich, to Miss Sarah Ann Robinson, of Topsfield. Also, by the same, Mr. Henry Hindes to Miss Sarah Bly, both of Topsfield.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 27, 1850.*





**THE TOPSFIELD CELEBRATION.** The address of Nehemiah Cleaveland, Esq., delivered at the second Centennial Anniversary Celebration at Topsfield, on the 28th of August last, has just been published, with notes appended, and embellishments, in a style of typographical elegance worthy of the very uncommon propriety and completeness which characterized all the details of that celebration. The natives of Topsfield may well be justified in looking back with pride upon the energy, good taste, and enlightened spirit, which animated and pervaded the celebration of their centennial anniversary, in the assurance that their pleasant village will hold a higher rank for at least a hundred years to come, in consequence of their success on this occasion.

The most important feature of the day was the Address by Nehemiah Cleaveland, Esq., which we think will be cited as a model for discourses of this class. We trust that some of the parties interested will take measures for the preservation of copies in all the public libraries of the Commonwealth.

The pamphlet is enriched by three fine engravings; namely, a likeness of Gov. Bradstreet, now for the first time copied and published, through the kindness of Solomon Wildes, Esq., and others of the Governor's descendants; of the late Mrs. Alethea Huntington, widow of Rev. Asahel Huntington, of Topsfield, and mother of Dr. Elisha Huntington, recently Mayor of Lowell, and of Asahel Huntington, Esq., of this city; of the Hon. Nehemiah Cleaveland; and of Gov. John Endicott, the engraved steel portrait of which was loaned by C. M. Endicott, Esq., of this city.

The Address presents many tempting passages for extract. The grave humor and felicitous description of the old church in Topsfield, will be appreciated by many of our readers.

The date of the fourth meeting-house will never be forgotten by those who were wont in childhood to visit the venerable place. The figures 17—59 separated into two sections by a long hyphen of space, have, indeed, perished with the pillars, whose capitals they adorned. But their image was long ago impressed upon many a mental tablet, from which it will never be effaced, till the tablets themselves shall be no more. It was on the 4th of July, in the year just named, that the frame of this house was raised. The preparations made by the town, and recorded in its books, give some faint idea of what a great raising was in those days. It was, indeed, an event long to be remembered—for the entire population, men, women, and children, with multitudes from the towns adjacent, then came together to perform, or else





to behold and rejoice over the mighty work. To lift those huge oak timbers high in air, and there to place and to secure them, was no child's play, but demanded every stalwart arm for miles around. I find, in the town vote, no mention of derricks, or pulleys, or cordage. They depended, it seems, on their own strong sinews, with, perhaps, some slight assistance from hydraulic power. What amount of it was deemed necessary in the present instance, may be gathered from the instructions given to the Committee, who were ordered to provide one barrel of rum and twelve barrels of cider.

The large and respectable edifice to which I now allude, was in many respects, decidedly in advance of its predecessors. It contained, when first opened for use, a number of pews in the body of the house, and a row of them quite around the side. These were all sold to the wealthier members of the congregation. In the third house there were but three or four pews,—put up by special permission, for as many aristocratic families. The remaining room was occupied by long benches. Upon these the people took their seats—not as accident or fancy led, but exactly where their places had been assigned by a committee, and fixed by the town. This distribution was determined by a rule. With a becoming respect for age, they gave the first and best places to men who were more than sixty years old, without regard to prosperity. To all the rest seats were assigned according to the tax they paid. The men and women occupied opposite sides, and the young were disposed of in the rear. After the erection of the third structure, several attempts were made to seat those who had no pews, according to the old principle; but they were, I believe, all unsuccessful. A new order of things had it seems begun.

To many of us, the image of that old house, where, for eighty years, the Gospel was proclaimed, and its ordinances dispensed, must be ever dear. Venerable edifice! we see thee still, as when in childhood, we gazed with awe at thy vast form, thy towering spire, thy glittering and ever-restless weather cock. What pictures of the past revive, as thy immense interior once more rises on our mental vision! There was thy pulpit—revered and awful rostrum, where, raised high in air, stood the holy man; there thy sounding-board, projecting, seemingly unsupported, like an impending avalanche, there, too, thy velvet cushion—soft as feathers could make it, and sending up, when pounded by a vigorous eloquence, clouds of sacred dust. Shall we ever forget thy lofty and spacious gallery—grand receptacle of all ages and both sexes. How well do we remember its foremost seat,—venerable with wrinkled brows and snowy hair. How well recall







the denser masses in the rear, where sober middle age, and sprightly youth, were seen, distinct in their ascending ranks, like the vegetable zones of *Ætna*. There, too, in one of the angles, marked by his staff of office, sat the terrific tything-man. In front of the pulpit, rose, like some well-manned battery, the singers' seats. What volleys of sound did we not receive, unshrinkingly, from that noisy spot! How anxious was the pause,—relieved only by a slight shuffling and by half-stifed hems,—which succeeded the reading of the psalm! How like a small thunder-clap, burst upon the ear that preluding note, which brought every voice to the right pitch! And then, who can recount the musical glories which hung clustering round Thanksgiving Day,—when the results of a month's preparation broke upon our heads in a perfect storm of sound? How fearful the strife when flute and clarinet, and viols, great and small, entered the lists with bass, and counter, and tenor, and treble! And oh! how our hearts beat,—let me use another's words—"at the turning of a fugue,—when the bass moved forward first, like the opening fire of artillery,—and the tenor advanced next, like a corps of grenadiers,—and the treble followed with the brilliant execution of infantry, and the trumpet counter shot by the whole, with the speed of darting cavalry:—and then, when all mingled in that battle of harmony and melody, and mysteriously fought their way through, with a well-ordered perplexity, that made us wonder how they came out exactly together!"

Will the pictured memory ever fade of those square pews, with their little banisters, so convenient to twirl—so pleasant to peep through; their uncushioned seats, which were hung on hinges, and raised in prayer time, and which followed up the amen, with a loud rattling, running report, like an old-fashioned militia fire; and the flag-seated chairs, that stood in the centre, for mother, or grand-ma'am, or spinster aunt? There were the long, free seats—there was the Elder's pew, with iron stand for hour-glass and christening basin—and there the Deacon's strait, snug box, where those good men were wont to sit, with their faces to the people and their backs to the minister—"the observed of all observers," and examples of the highest edification, when they happened to be dozy.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 21, 1851.*

#### FOR THE GAZETTE

#### A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS IN TOPSFIELD.

Several months since, Mr. John Dwinell, in cutting straw, with a cylinder straw-cutter, and conversing at the same time





with a companion, fed in his fingers instead of the straw, nor was aware of what he was doing till his companion hearing the bones crack, told him he had got sticks in the machines. There was no other way to disengage his hand, but by reversing the crank, when he found that three of his fingers had something the appearance of minced meat; the second finger had come in contact with five knives, three above and two below, the others with one less. By the surgical skill of Dr. Merriam, the fingers were all preserved entire.

A few weeks since, Mr. Samuel Todd, who was felling timber in the woods, when a limb struck him on the top of the head, and crushed him into the snow, depriving him of sense and laying the skull bare three or four inches over his forehead. This wound was likewise skillfully dressed by the same surgeon, and Mr. Todd was about his business in a week, having hardly a trace of the wound, by way of a scar.

Two or three weeks since, George Bennett and his companion were in the woods splitting wood for the market, both splitting the same log and facing each other. While Mr. Bennett's axe was fast, and he was trying to raise the handle, it came up suddenly, and the other striking at the same time, came in contract with Bennett's thumb, severing it entirely, with the exception of about one inch of the integuments on the inside, next the hand, somewhat like the thumb of a glove connected by a few stitches only on the inside. This was likewise successfully treated by the Doctor, and the thumb preserved in place and form, so that he has returned to his family in New Hampshire, with his person entire.

Another case, which happened last Thursday, if not an accident, must proved quite a disaster to the young man, the subject.

A stranger, who gave his name as Edward Cullihan, last from Rochester, N. H., twenty-five years old, inquiring for work, and stopping temporarily with Mr. David Towne. About 5 o'clock on Thursday, while chopping wood in the yard, he was seen holding up his left arm with his hand chopped entirely off, and the blood streaming from the stump. This was a case requiring promptness as well as skill, and was successfully dressed and the patient is doing well. In this case, it appears the young man was in a state of Delirium Tremens, and supposed his hand was a black cat coming at him, and he made not less than six strokes with the hatchet before he entirely severed his hand at the wrist, as was evident from the marks on the mangled hand, and on the log where it lay.





We think it fortunate that these several somewhat serious cases, should have fallen into the hands of so safe and experienced a surgeon. The Doctor's surgical abilities have been lying dominant for several years owing to the limited field of operations, and the proximity to the cities of his location. We are glad to know that we have so certain and safe a remedy at hand, for there are, not unfrequently, cases happening which do not admit of delay,—a life or limb is at stake, instance the preceding cases.

SHE-NE-WEE-ME-DY.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 18, 1851.*

### TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1851.

**TOPSFIELD.** Town Clerk—J. P. Towne. Selectmen—John Wright, Joshua Wildes, Thomas Gould. Assessors—John G. Hood, R. D. Perkins, Thomas L. Lane. Overseers of the Poor—Samuel Todd, Thomas P. Munday, Josiah Bradstreet. Treasurer—John Wright. Collector—Samuel S. McKenzie. Constables—Isaiah M. Small, Andrew Gould. School Committee—Rev. A. McLoud, John C. Balch, Nehemiah Balch, and two others.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 18, 1851.*

**FOR SALE.**—A FARM, situated in Topsfield, on the main road to Ipswich, containing eighty acres of land suitably divided,—Tillage, Pasture, and Woodland,—with a good supply of fruit, together with the Stock, Tools, etc., etc. Apply to BENJ. R. ROBINSON

on the premises.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 28, 1851.*

### DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

The first meeting of those named in an Act, passed by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, May 7, 1851, entitled "An act to incorporate the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company and their associates, will be held at BERRY'S TAVERN, in the North parish of Danvers, on TUESDAY, the 3d day of June next, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the following purposes:—

- 1st. To see if they will accept said Act of Incorporation.
- 2d. To organize under said Act.





3d. To do any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

JOHN WRIGHT  
SAMUEL LITTLE  
HENRY POOR  
ASA PINGREE

Persons named  
in said  
Act of Incorporation.

Danvers, May 27, 1851.

*Salem Gazette, May 30, 1851.*

#### DANVERS & GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

The first meeting of those interested in the construction of this road, was held at North Danvers, last Tuesday afternoon, for the purpose of organizing under their charter. About forty gentlemen were present from the different towns on the route of the proposed roads. The meeting was organized by the choice of Dr. Merriam of Topsfield, as Chairman, and W. L. Weston, Esq., of Danvers, as clerk. It was unanimously voted to accept the Act of Incorporation passed at the last session of the Legislature, and measures were taken which indicate that the road will be built, and that speedily. Committees were appointed to solicit subscriptions to the stock of the Corporation, to estimate the probable land damages along the line of the road, and settle with the owners, and also to employ an engineer to make the necessary surveys, plans, &c.

The meeting was a very spirited one, and a great deal of interest was manifested in the construction of this road. No doubt was expressed but that the stock could soon be taken up and the road put under contract and completed. We understand that there are no very bad grades on the route, and that the road can be built as cheaply and as easily as almost any road in the State. The distance from the terminus of the Newburyport Railroad in Georgetown, to the proposed point of connection with the Essex Railroad in North Danvers is estimated at 11 1-2 miles.

—Obs.

*Salem Gazette, June 7, 1851.*

#### DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

We learn that the subscription to the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad is progressing very well. This road when completed will form a middle route from Boston to the Merrimac river, between the Eastern and the Boston and Maine roads, and will no doubt fill that section which is now much less thinly settled than the towns below and above, with a busy and dense pop-





ulation. We anticipate no injury by this road to any other interest, but rather that it will benefit the whole population on the seaboard as well as inland, by adding materially to the population and resources of that part of Essex County.—*Newburyport Herald*.

*Salem Gazette, July 12, 1851.*

## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, Miss Phillis Emerson, aged 72, the only colored person in Topsfield.

*Salem Gazette, July 12, 1851.*

## DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

The following gentlemen have been chosen Directors of the Danvers & Georgetown Rail Road :—

George Tenney of Georgetown,  
Asa Pingree of Topsfield,  
Daniel Richards of North Danvers,  
Wm. D. Northend of Salem,  
George Osborne of South Danvers,  
J. Colman of Newburyport,  
Edward Crane of Boston,  
Thomas Perley of Boxford,  
I. S. Black of Danvers.

The town of Georgetown has voted almost unanimously, to appropriate the surplus money owned by the town in the Manufacturers' Bank, in payment for fifteen shares in the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad. This town has now taken up all the stock allotted to it.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 12, 1851.*

**CAUTION TO MINISTERS.** Rev. Mr. Cary, of Topsfield, was yesterday examined before the Salem Police Court, upon a charge of having married two minors without the consent of their parents, and was recognized to appear at the October term of the C. C. P. We believe that the defendant is not charged with anything more than a culpable carelessness, but such an investigation will at all events have the effect of exhibiting the dangerous tendency of the recent law dispensing with the publication of intentions of marriage.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 19, 1851.*





Joel Lake, Esq., of Topsfield, has been appointed by the Governor and Council, a Justice of the Peace for the county of Essex.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 19, 1851.*

#### DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

The board of Directors for this Company has been organized by the choice of William D. Northend of this city as President, and William L. Weston of Danvers, Treasurer and Clerk.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 22, 1851.*

THE TOPSFIELD NURSERIES are becoming famous. Last week Mr. E. Lake presented to us a specimen of the plums which he raises on his place. They were the Imperial Violets, of magnificent size, and luscious quality. The tree from which they were taken is a great bearer, and has been so loaded with fruit that it has been necessary to prop it up.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 2, 1851.*

TOPSFIELD FRUIT. The Messrs. Lake are doing a great deal to make the good old town of Topsfield famous for fruit and fruit trees. We noticed last week, the reception of some fine fruit from E. Lake, and have now to make our acknowledgements to Mr. J. Lake, for some splendid specimens from his Nursery, consisting of Royal George, Noblesse, and Manning's Red Peaches, Bartlett Pears, Prince's Imperial and Red Gage Plums, and two kinds of native grapes, raised from seed, and which ripen about the 20th of September.

We are also indebted to Capt. J. K. Cole, for some specimens of the Runnels or Iron Apples, from the Crowninshield farm, in Topsfield. They are of the growth of last year, but of perfectly firm flesh, and pleasant flavor.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 13, 1851.*

The Messrs. Lake had a great variety of fruit, from their Topsfield Nurseries, at the Horticultural and Agricultural Exhibitions. Mr. W. G. Lake afforded us an opportunity of tasting some very nice specimens of peaches and plums; and from Messrs. J. & E. Lake we received a variety of apples.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 27, 1851.*





## List of Premiums and Gratuities.

*Awarded by the Essex Agricultural Society.*

September 25th, 1851.

*Ploughing—Single Teams.*

Moses Pettingill, Topsfield, plough, Ruggles & Co., 4th premium,	\$2 00
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*Fruits.*

Moses Pettingill, Topsfield, gratuity,	\$3 00
William Geo. Lake, do. do.	3 00

*Flowers.*

Mrs. Pettingill, Topsfield	\$2 00
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*Salem Gazette, Sept. 30, 1851.*

## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, 1st inst., Mrs. Rebecca Hobbs, aged 96—the oldest inhabitant of the town.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 11, 1851.*

ESSEX COUNTY. An intelligent correspondent, in Topsfield, writes us, as follows:

"Our farmers are reaping a rich harvest as the reward of their toils the past summer. Our crops are better than an average. Corn and potatoes are fine in quality, and abundant in quantity. Apples are good in quality, but not so abundant as in some years. Our farmers are giving their attention to raising quinces, which are producing finely. The drought which is so universal in its extent, affects us. Many of the wells are quite dried up, and the small streams have failed to flow for several weeks, so that the cattle will suffer soon, if no rain falls. It is said, by "the oldest inhabitants," that our river has not been lower for fifty years.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 17, 1851.*

## DEATHS

In Topsfield, Mr. Elijah Perkins, aged 85 years 10 mos. 15 days—the oldest man in the town.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 4, 1851.*





### To the Inhabitants of Toppsfield.

My address, on the occasion of our two hundredth Anniversary, contained, as you perhaps remember, a few suggestions in regard to the name of our town, and its probable source. That it was derived, in some way, from a parish in England, there could be no doubt; but still there was no positive evidence. It occurred to me that the parochial register of the English Toppsfield might furnish such evidence,—and, in a note to the printed Address, I expressed the wish that some one would find or make an opportunity to investigate the matter.—During the past summer, it so happened that I had, myself, such an opportunity.

In addressing to you this communication, I act, you see, on the presumption that the result of my inquiries will not be wholly uninteresting to you—Without exalting it into an affair of special importance, it may at least, be regarded as one of rational curiosity.

The parish of Toppesfield is situated in the northern section of Essex. The nearest approach to it from London, by railroad, is Braintree, distant about twelve miles. I reached it, however, in a different way—stopping, on my return from Cambridge, at Saffron Walden, from which place I took a private conveyance. The distance is about sixteen miles. I found the ride exceedingly pleasant, along the narrow but excellent road, which winds its way through an unbroken succession of luxuriant corn fields and meadows. As I drew near to the place, I noticed guide-board directing the traveller to Toppesfield—and I hardly need tell you that the sight occasioned a rush of recollections and of strong home-feeling. Could it be that I was more than three thousand miles removed from the familiar guide-posts of Boxford, Ipswich and Danvers!

It was evening when I arrived, and the “Green Man Inn” received me. This is a small, but neat and comfortable tavern, and bears the marks of a respectable antiquity. It is, in fact, just such a place as the ale-house of Goldsmith’s Poem, and has been, I presume the nightly resort of the Toppesfield politicians, for at least two hundred years.

When I went out the next morning, I found myself in a small village, composed of stone cottages, mostly plastered, white-washed and thatched. I saw nothing in them particularly pleasing, beyond that aspect of neatness, and those floral adornings, which rarely desert even the meanest rural home in that beautiful country. My first visit was to the Church of St. Margaret. The body of this edifice, which is of stone, is long, low





and narrow. It has a square, massive, brick tower, erected at the beginning of the last century, and containing a clock and a chime of five bells. The building occupies the centre of a small burying ground, and has around it quite a number of simple head-stones, but none of very ancient date. The interior interested me much. A place of worship more rude in aspect, or less adapted to comfort, it would, I am sure, be difficult to find in all New England. But as I marked its quaint irregularity of shape—as my eye rested on the severe plainness of its architecture and its furnishings—as, with some help of fancy, I read there “tales of the bridal and the bier,”—whole centuries, indeed, of history, that seemed to be written on the walls. I found the place exceedingly picturesque and pleasing. The pews are narrow, upright boxes, with high sides, and with the exception of the Rector’s, are uncushioned and uncarpeted. A few of them, however, were supplied with straw-covered hassocks. Upon the southern side there are four gothic arches, which rest upon short, thick columns. On this side there is a low gallery, erected as an inscription shows in 1833. The pulpit and reading desk are on the opposite side.—These are of oak, and the former resembles, in shape and appearance, that interesting relic, the old Capen pulpit. Its soft cloth cushion, with two depending tassels, is precisely such a one as Parson Dutch—the “Kettle drum” of my early remembrance—used to pummel so unmercifully in our old meeting house.

I must confess that even the humble monuments inserted in the wall and floor of the edifice, had an interest for me, though I had just before seen, and certainly not with indifference, the sepulchral glories of St. Denis, and Santa Croce, and Westminster Abbey. One of them, a mural tablet, commemorates in Latin, the virtues of Dorcas Smyth, a native of Toppsfield, who died in 1633, aged 76. It is surmounted by a dove, under which are the words “Fida: Simplex.” Beneath the dove is a beehive, with the motto, “Industria Dulcis.”—Small pilasters at the sides represent piles of books, the lettered backs of which proclaim the pious reading of the good dame. On one of the scrolls is a bleeding heart, with the word “Spes” above it.—On the other is an open hand, over which is the word “Charitas.” Below the whole there is a corbel, which supports a clasped Bible, on whose leaves is seen the word “Fides,” while upon it sits a lamb—the words “Humilis:” “Mitis” being inscribed above. The meaning of the Latin words, and the application of the symbols, were elaborately and lucidly explained to me by the aged sexton.







Another small tablet, near the altar, bears an inscription in classical Latin, of which the following is a version: "I Richard King, a native of Hutfordshire—educated at Oxford—a theologian by profession—by appointment a Chaplain to his Majesty, King James, and the unworthy Vicar of this church, cheerfully lay down my mortal remains in this consecrated spot. Glory be to God! To the Church, Prosperity! and to my soul, everlasting rest! Amen."

I noticed there the names of three other rectors. The oldest inscription is on a small brass plate in the pavement. It is an injunction to pray for the soul of John Cracherode. This man died in 1534—more than a hundred years before a tree had been felled upon the plains of our native town, and just about the time when Henry VIII severed the connexions of England with Rome. Two other monuments are evidently still older, having lost every trace of name and date. These may safely be referred to the fifteenth century. But of St. Margaret's, enough.

With the exception of Howlett, on certain stones in the graveyard, I had, as yet, found no name which belonged to any of the founders of our Topsfield. My next object was to look into the parish register. I went to the Parsonage, the Rector being away, I called on one of the Churchwardens. On hearing what I wanted, he kindly accompanied me to the Rector's study, and placed the books before me. The oldest manuscript into which I looked begins with the year 1559. I commenced my search at 1600. The record, being in the cramped and peculiar character of that period, was not easy to decipher—nor could I, under the circumstances, study it with proper composure and care, especially as the good Churchwarden showed some signs of impatience. It was not till I reached the year 1621, that I found anything encouraging. Here was the name of Samuel Symonds, gent., and that of Dorothy his wife. Between this date and 1633, I found and copied the baptisms of ten of their children. I also followed the record some thirty or forty years farther, but found nothing beyond. The question at once arose—was this Samuel Symonds the same man as the Deputy Governor of Massachusetts, and the early Ipswich citizen, mentioned in the Court order for 1643, for settling the village of New Meadows? If so, the problem of our name is solved.—Since my return, I have corresponded on this subject, with Abraham Hammatt, Esq., of Ipswich.—Mr. Symonds, he informs me, is said to have sprung from a respectable family at Great Yeldham. This parish adjoins Toppesfield, and the churches are not more than two miles asunder. A comparison of the names and births, as taken





from the English register, corresponds entirely with what is known of the sons and daughters of the Ipswich settler. I need not go into the particulars. They are such as fully satisfy Mr. H. and myself, that the Mr. Symonds of Toppesfield in England, and the Mr. Symonds of Ipswich in America, were one and the same. When the question of a name for the new village came up in the Court of Assistants, it was very natural that this gentlemen, who was one of the proprietors, should suggest that of the old parish in distant but still dear England, where he had so long lived, and where his children had been born. Nor was it strange that the wish of a man so influential should prevail.

I have not quite done with Toppesfield. It is a parish of about 3000 acres. Its surface is varied by slight inequalities, but there are no hills. The soil is somewhat clayey, and when I saw it, revealed its fertility by the unquestionable token of rich corn-fields ripe for the sickle.

The Rector of this parish is the Rev. Henry John Gooch—a nephew, if I was not misinformed, of General Gooch, who, a few years since, commanded the British forces in India. The parsonage is a charming residence, surrounded by flowers and shrubbery, and smooth-shaven lawns. The present incumbent lives among his people, and seems to be regarded with respect and affection.

I have perhaps dwelt upon the subject in hand, with needless prolixity and minuteness. Have I erred in supposing that even small particulars may interest you, when they relate to one of those places which were familiar and dear to your ancestors, for centuries before our cis-atlantic antiquity began? To me, this visit to Toppesfield was gratifying, not merely because I there saw the Fatherland namesake of my native town—nor only because it enabled me to settle a question of some historic interest. I saw there a fair specimen of the English rural parish. From places just like this came, two hundred years ago, many of our Puritan forefathers. And it was, thought I, amid such scenery that they lived. In fields like this they used to toil. Such were the cottages in which they dwelt, and here is a model of the churches where they were wont to worship. Is it strange that the thoughts of a New Englander in such a spot should dwell with lively emotion on the results of that renowned migration, to which he owes his country? I had seen indeed, much to admire on that old world beyond the sea—and in England, especially, I had found but little to dislike. And yet, as I compared the condition of the great masses of European population, even in the most favored lands, with that of my countrymen at home, I could not doubt where the advantage lies.





And here in this ancient Toppesfield, how could I but think of its Western counterpart? Two hundred years of historic parallel were drawn out before me, as I contrasted the fortune of those who staid with that of those who made their escape. Here I saw your collateral kindred—your far-away cousins—living as you would now be living, had your fathers, like theirs, lacked the spirit to resent oppression, or the courage which it then required to flee from it. Here I was in a community of several hundred people, not a man of whom owns one rood of the land which he cultivates; not an individual of whom possesses the house that shelters him. These skilful farmers are mere tenants at will, and are perpetually struggling under an oppressive burden of rents, and tythes, and taxes, and rates. These hardy laborers think they do well if their toil yields them the average remuneration of a shilling per day. As to religious privileges they had indeed a sitting, hired or free, in yonder rude church. Their rector, sent them by the Queen, may be a good man, or he may not. With the question of his appointment or dismissal they have just as much concern as you have. They are, however, permitted to pay him. From that glebe, which is made so rich by their sweat, he draws an annual stipend three times as large as that which you raise for your two clergymen. And here, in a parish which pays its Rector more than thirty-five hundred dollars a year,—here, within four hours' ride of the grand metropolis of the world, here in the middle of the nineteenth century, a free school is a thing which yet remains to be invented. As to the other picture, you have it at hand, and it needs not my sketching. Can you look at the two, and find no reason for contentment—no incentive to gratitude? Thanks, then, to those good men—our fathers!—thanks, above all, to Him whose favor they sought and found; that they were *not* content with the things around them, and that there *was* that which they dreaded more than ocean storms, or a wilderness life, or death itself!

With the best wishes,

I am yours, &c., &c.

N. CLEVELAND.

BROOKLYN, Nov. 8, 1851.

*Salem Register, Nov. 13, 1851.*

#### FOR SALE

A large and valuable FARM, situated in Topsfield, on the Newburyport Turnpike, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile from the main road from Salem. It is 8 miles from Salem, 21 from Boston.







There is upon the estate a large and convenient house, with wood house, coach house, and other buildings. There are also two very large barns, corn barn, tool house, sheds, &c. All the buildings are in good repair and were thoroughly built, without regard to expense. There are about 190 acres of land, the most of it in a high state of cultivation, enclosed by excellent stone walls. It is conveniently divided into mowing, tillage and pasture lots. There are a large number of apple and other fruit trees of the finest description in full bearing.

This estate is on elevated ground, and for beauty of situation and prospect is unsurpassed. The land is of first rate quality and in the highest condition. It may be examined upon application to J. K. COLE, upon the premises. For terms apply to

FRANCIS B. CROWNINSHIELD,  
Old Colony Rail Road Station, Boston.

May 29, 1851.

*Salem Register, Nov. 13, 1851.*

DEATH FROM INTEMPERANCE AND EXPOSURE.—Moody Balch, a man of intemperate habits, left his home, in Topsfield, on Monday of last week, and was missing until Sunday morning last, when he was found dead, near a stone wall, in a pasture in rear of the house of Asa Pingree, Esq. Constant search had been made for Balch, by his friends, from Tuesday up to the time of finding the body, but mostly in a different direction from the place where it was found, as he was last seen in an opposite part of the town. A jug of rum was found by the side of the body. Mr. Balch was 57 years of age, and unmarried. A coroner was called from Salem, on Sunday, but after a hearing of the circumstances it was adjudged unnecessary to hold an inquest.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 18, 1851.*

## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, Jan. 7, Mrs. Susan Cummings, aged 66 years, 10 mos. Extensively known as the excellent landlady of the Topsfield Hotel. Funeral to-morrow from her late residence, at 1 o'clock.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 9, 1852.*





BILL OF MORTALITY OF THE TOWN OF TOPSFIELD—  
FROM JAN. 1, 1851, TO JAN. 1, 1852.

January	24	Mrs. Abigail Perley	81 yrs.
Febr'y	12	Miss Anna Perkins	65
March	13	Miss Abigail Perkins	63
	16	Mr. George Hobbs	68
	24	Wife of Solomon Averill	83
April	26	Josiah Gould	62
	27	Alfred, son of J. Boardman, jr.	3
May	2	Mrs. Eunice Putnam	73
June	2	Asa Bradstreet	34
July	9	Miss Phillis Emerson	71
	24	Mary Ellen, child of O. Porter	3
August	17	Emma Augusta Crowell	2 mos.
	21	Charles Gould	24 yrs.
	28	Emmaetta, child of A. Gould	1
	29	Miss Ruth Gould	68
	31	Mrs. Sarah Emerson	37
Sept.	8	Amos Perkins	63
	9	Child of S. N. Averill	—
	10	John Riley	63
	12	Mrs. Sally Horne	64
	15	Wm. Arthur, child of E. Peabody	2
	17	Child of Moses Peabody	1
	24	David, child of B. Kimball	2
October	1	Mrs. Rebecca Hobbs	96
	7	Widow of Nathaniel Gould	80
	14	Mary Jane, child of late J. Potter	4
	14	Harriet Josephine Holmes, child of Edwin Foster	2
	19	Mrs. Abigail Wright	45
	31	Elijah Perkins	85
Novem.	4	Mrs. Eunice Esty	77
	10	Moody Balch	58
	23	Mrs. Elizabeth Elliott	27
Dec'r	29	Wife of S. N. Averill	—

Topsfield, Jan. 1, 1852.

[Reg.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 9, 1852.*

NOTICE. As my son, Geo. CLARKE, has eloped, I forbid all persons, trusting him on my account, as I shall pay no debts of his contracting.

SAMUEL CLARKE.

Topsfield, Jan. 30, 1852.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 30, 1852.*





### Topsfield Academy

*Is now re-opened for the reception of pupils of both sexes.*

The SPRING TERM of this Institution will commence on WEDNESDAY, the 14th of April, and will continue eleven weeks.

Instruction given in the various branches of an English Education, in Vocal and Instrumental Music, Drawing, and in the Latin, Greek, and French Languages.

#### TERMS OF TUITION.

English Branches,	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$5 00
Languages, each	.	.	.	.	.	.	2 00
Drawing,	.	.	.	.	.	.	2 00
Music, and use of Piano,	.	.	.	.	.	.	8 00

Board in good families, \$1.75 to \$2 per week.

This Institution, it is believed, presents the most favorable opportunities for the acquisition of an education. The situation is easily accessible, by good public conveyances, and in all natural advantages, well adapted for a school. The moral tone of the place is eminently healthy, and the teachers will spare no pains to advance the interests of any scholar that may be committed to their charge.

WILLIAM C. FARNSWORTH, *Preceptor*

MISS ELLEN S. LOVERING, *Preceptress*

Topsfield, March 30, 1852.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 30, 1852.*

### Topsfield Nurseries

#### PREMIUM

Trees and Scions!

THE SUBSCRIBER respectfully invites his friends and customers to his LARGE COLLECTION of

#### FRUIT TREES!

embracing all the choicest varieties worth cultivation—consisting of

APPLE,

PEAR,

PEACH,

PLUM,

CHERRY,

QUINCE,

from three to five years from the bud—thrifty and handsome.





Also—about two hundred extra size Pear Trees, eight to ten years from the bud—all in a bearing state, on pear bottoms.

Also—about fifteen hundred Pear Trees, on pear bottoms, from three to four years from the bud—very thrifty, and of the choicest varieties.

Also—Mountain Ash, Weeping Willows, Arbor Vitae, Fur Balsam, etc.

SCIONS cut to order, from fifteen hundred standard Apple and Pear Trees,—many of which are in a full bearing state, and fruited one hundred and thirty varieties last year,—and delivered free of charge at any of the depots in Salem or Boston.

W. G. LAKE.

Topsfield, March 26.

*Salem Gazette*, Mar. 30, 1852.

The Crowninshield Farm in Topsfield was sold last week, for \$9,900, to Mr. Boyden, formerly keeper of the Tremont House, in Boston, who proposes, it is understood, to reside permanently in Topsfield.

*Salem Gazette*, Apr. 20, 1852.

#### DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

A meeting of the Stockholders of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company will be held at Berry's Hotel, in North Danvers, on THURSDAY next, June 3d, at 1 o'clock, P. M., for the following objects:—

To see if they will accept an act passed by the last Legislature, entitled "An Act concerning the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company," and to take any action thereon;

To see what measures they will adopt to have the road put under contract for construction;

To attend to any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Per order of the Directors,

WILLIAM D. NORTHEND, President.

Salem, May 28, 1852.

*Salem Gazette*, June 1, 1852.

#### DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

A meeting of the subscribers to Stock in the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad was held at North Danvers, yesterday afternoon.





The President of the Road, Mr. Northend, made some statements of the prospects of the road and of proposals for its construction, and expressed his belief that by additional effort on the part of the Stockholders, the road could be put under contract within a few weeks.

The Act passed by the last Legislature concerning the road was unanimously accepted, and the following vote was passed:

*Voted.* That the Directors be authorized to lease the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad to the Boston and Maine or Eastern Railroad Cos. for such time and on such terms as they may deem most for the interest of the road and the stockholders, and that they be authorized to take such measures as they shall deem proper to put the road under contract for construction, and they are hereby authorized to put the road under contract in such manner and at such time as they shall deem most for the interest of the road.

The meeting was then adjourned to meet at Munday's Hall in Topsfield, on Tuesday afternoon next, at 2 o'clock.

Great confidence is expressed by the Directors that the road can be constructed this Summer and that thus a direct Railroad communication be opened with the interior of the county and with Haverhill.

*Salem Gazette, June 4, 1852.*

**DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.** The meeting of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad is adjourned to meet at MUNDAY'S HOTEL, in Topsfield, on TUESDAY (This Day,) at 2 o'clock, P. M.

*Salem Gazette, June 15, 1852.*

Among the toasts offered at Fourth of July dinner at Salem was the following:

20. Topsfield—her geographical position, makes her the centre, and her character entitles her to be considered the heart of Essex County.

*Salem Gazette, July 6, 1852.*

BY THOMAS L. LANE—TOPSFIELD.

#### GUARDIAN'S SALE.

Will be sold, by order of Probate Court, on THURSDAY, the 29th day of July inst., at 5 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, at the residence of Mrs. Mercy Peabody.

ONE undivided ninth part of all the REAL ESTATE of which the late EBENEZER PEABODY died seized,—now belonging





to Ezra Peabody,—the same being subject to the widow's dower.

NATH'L PERKINS, Guardian.

Topsfield, July 13, 1852.

*Salem Gazette, July 16, 1852.*

DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD. The Stockholders of the DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD COMPANY are hereby notified that their Annual Meeting will be held at MUNDAY'S HALL, in Topsfield, on WEDNESDAY, the 4th day of August next, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the following purposes, viz:

1st To choose a Board of Directors for the year ensuing.

2d To transact any other business that may legally come before them.

W. D. NORTHEED, President.

Salem, July 27, 1852.

*Salem Gazette, July 27, 1852.*

#### DEATHS.

In Topsfield, on the 21st inst., Mr. Edward Hood, aged 53 years. He was Postmaster at Topsfield under the Administration of Mr. Van Buren. The deceased was one of those untiring, unflinching Democrats—early enlisting in the cause of Democracy under the Administration of Gen. Jackson, and to which he strictly adhered until after the swerving of many from their first love and uniting with the Abolition and Free Soil Democrats—he then entirely withdrew his action and feelings from the political sphere and since which has taken no lively interest in the political movements.—*Communicated.*

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 24, 1852.*

R. A. Merriam and Samuel Clifford were the Topsfield delegates to the Whig State Convention.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 27, 1852.*

#### DEATHS.

In North Beverly, Aug. 20, widow Abigail Homan, daughter of the late Daniel and Hannah Estey, of Topsfield, aged 71.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 7, 1852.*

In Boxford, 9th inst., Mrs. Mary, widow of the late Mr. Benjamin Hobbs, of Topsfield, aged 80 years 11 days.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 14, 1852.*





**FINE FRUITS.** "The *Lakes*" are as liberal in their distribution of their fruits, as they are successful in cultivation, and rich and abundant in varieties. We are indebted to the kind remembrance of Mr. W. G. Lake for assorted specimens of fifty varieties of the finest fruits,—apples, pears, peaches, and grapes,—the product of his extensive Nurseries in Topsfield.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 8, 1852.*

### Whig Rally at Topsfield

The citizens of Topsfield are invited to meet at Academy Hall, **THIS EVENING**, Oct. 26th, at 7 o'clock, to listen to addresses from distinguished speakers. The Scott Glee Club, from Salem, will be there. Ladies are invited.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 26, 1852.*

On Friday evening, the Whigs of Topsfield had a full meeting. An excellent address was delivered by Wm. C. Endicott, Esq., after which Leverett Saltonstall, Esq., was called out, and responded in a spirited and animating impromptu speech.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 26, 1852.*

On Tuesday evening the Whigs of Topsfield had another fine meeting and were ably and eloquently addressed by Wm. D. Northend, Esq., of Salem, and A. A. Abbott, Esq., of Danvers. The Salem Glee Club also attended and enlivened the meeting with some of their stirring songs.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 29, 1852.*

### To the STOCKHOLDERS of the Danvers & Georgetown Railroad.

THE first assessment of Ten Dollars on each and every share of the Capital Stock of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company has been made by the President and Directors of said Company, and notice is hereby given, that the said assessment will be due and payable at the residence of the Treasurer, in Topsfield, on the 30th of November present.

WILLIAM N. CLEVELAND, Treas.

Topsfield, Nov. 23, 1852.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 25, 1852.*

**NARROW ESCAPE.** On Saturday morning last, as Mr. W. G. Lake, of Topsfield, was passing over the draw of Charlestown





Bridge with a heavy load of Apples, the forward axle-tree of his wagon broke in the centre, throwing Mr. Lake between the horses. The animals became frightened, and ran with great speed, and as Mr. Lake attempted to extricate himself by springing between the wheels and the horses, he was thrown down, and both wheels of the wagon passed over his legs, bruising them, if not breaking some bones. He was taken to Webb's Hotel in Elm street, where medical aid was called, and every attention paid by the landlord to his comfort.—

*Traveller.*

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 31, 1852.*

TOPSFIELD, Jan. 6, 1853.

*To the Editor of the Salem Gazette:*

Annexed I hand you a list of Fruits, such as I have in a bearing state and in open field cultivation, without high brick walls or board fences to protect them. I have fruited every variety upon the list, and they all do first rate with me, with the exception of two varieties, which I have not so fully tested as I have the others,—those are the *Northern Spy* and *Spitzenburg*; yet I feel confident that the *Spy* will do well with us, in good cultivation, and if so, it is one of the best apples in the world, and should be extensively cultivated. The *Spitzenburg* is a very handsome, good, rich flavored, late keeping apple, but has the appearance of being a poor bearer, but it may do better as the tree grows older.

I have many other new varieties of fruit under cultivation, which I shall speak of hereafter.

If you think the annexed list of fruits worth publishing, you can do so, with any remarks you may see fit to make.

Yours &c.

W. G. LAKE.

Fruit for Northern cultivation, hardy and sure:

APPLES. *Winter—Late keeping.*—Baldwin, Roxbury Russett, Rhode Island Greening, Danvers Winter Sweet, Northern *Spy*, *Spitzenburg*.

*Early Winter.*—Hubbardston, Nonsuch, Aunt Hannah, Sweet Baldwin.

Fall,—Fall Harvey, Porter, Minister, Gravenstein, Alexander, Rives apple, Luscomb, Killam Hill.

*Early Summer.*—Williams' Favorite, Early Sweet Bough, Early Juneating, Baking Sweet, Red Astrican.





PEARS, Bartlett, Beurre Bosc, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Diel, Duchess D'Angouleme, Louise Bonne, De Jersey, Andrews, Vicar of Winkfield, Glont Morceau, Winter Nelis, Fulton, Seckel, Rostiezer, Buffum, Van Mons, Leon LeClere, St. Gislen, Golden Beurre Bilboa, Belle Lucrative, Urbanist, Beurre D'Arenburg, Columbia, Dix Tyson, Beurre D'Anjou, Lawrence.

CHERRIES. Black Tartarian, Black Eagle, Knight's Early Black, Davenport's Early, Danvers Late Red, Yellow Spanish, Arden's White Heart, Large White Bigarreau, American Amber, Early May Duke.

PLUMS. Green Gage, Red Gage, Prince's Yellow Gage, Imperial Gage, Washington, Lawrence Favorite, Jefferson, Black Imperial, Lombard.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 11, 1853.*

## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, Jan. 10th, William G. Lake, Esq., aged 44 years, 8 months:—the well known horticulturist of Essex County.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 14, 1853.*

An able and interesting discourse delivered on Thanksgiving day, by Rev. Mr. McCloud, of Topsfield, has been published, by request of a number of the leading members of his society.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 18, 1853.*

The following article is copied from the New England Farmer of last week:

Death of Wm. G. Lake, Esq.

Died in Topsfield, on the 10th inst., Mr. William G. Lake, aged 45 years.

Mr. Lake was somewhat extensively known as a horticulturist and dealer in nursery trees. He had devoted his whole time and energies for the last fifteen years to the cultivation of fruit and fruit trees. He had spared no pain or expense to procure the best varieties for cultivation. He had made himself practically acquainted with the growing of trees, and of performing the various nursery operations.

For several years past, his tables at our agricultural and horticultural shows have not been surpassed by any other contributor.

He had, for several years, supplied the vicinity with fruit trees, and several parts of the commonwealth, the southern parts of New Hampshire, and even the inhabitants of California will





soon be gathering fruit from trees sent out by Mr. Lake, and which were raised on the soil of Topsfield.

Mr. Lake has sold trees from 25 cents to 25 dollars apiece. He has left on his ground (ten acres) between twenty and thirty thousand worked fruit trees from one to four years old on the bud, for transplanting, besides leaving the grounds supplied with standard trees, just beginning to bear fruit; various ornamental trees have had a full share of his attention.

The town of Topsfield is indebted to Mr. Lake for the building up of quite a village ornamented with a variety of forest trees and shrubbery, where fourteen years ago, but one single dwelling, and a tall pine tree, relieved the monotony of mossy stone walls that bordered the highway.

Mr. Lake has certainly left a growing and enduring memorial of his industry, activity and taste.

About a fortnight before his death, he met with an accident on Charlestown bridge, from which he had very nearly recovered, when he was attacked with inflammation of the chest three days before his death. He leaves a wife and three children, who, for their great and sudden bereavement, have the deep sympathy of the public.

*Topsfield, Jan. 14, 1853.*

M. A. R.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1853.*

### GUARDIAN'S SALE.

By virtue of a license from Probate Court, will be sold at Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 7th day of March next, at two o'clock, P. M., on the premises, in Topsfield.

ALL THE RIGHT, title and interest that LEWIS HENRY SYMMES and WILLIAM ALBERT SYMMES, minor, have in and to about twenty acres of land, with a barn and carriage house thereon; being the estate of which Edward Hood, late of Topsfield, died seized.

Conditions made known at the time of sale.

LEWIS SYMMES, Guardian.

Beverly, Feb. 11, 1853.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 14, 1853.*

### GUARDIAN'S SALE.

By virtue of a license from Probate Court, will be sold at Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 7th day of March next, at three o'clock, P. M., on the premises in Topsfield,





ALL THE RIGHT, title, and interest that SAMUEL HOOD, of Topsfield, mariner, has in and to one undivided fifth part of about twenty acres of land, with a barn and carriage house thereon; being the estate of which Edward Hood, of Topsfield, died seized.

Conditions made known at the time of sale.

SYLVESTER CUMMINGS, Guardian.

Boxford, Feb. 11, 1853.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 11, 1853.*

TOPSFIELD. The Methodist Episcopal Society in this town have purchased a beautiful site for a meeting house, at the head of the common, on which a church of modern structure will be erected the coming season, at an expence of six thousand dollars, all of which has been subscribed.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 18, 1853.*

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, Commonwealth vs. William Munday, of Topsfield, for keeping a public nuisance, in the form of a slaughter house. Verdict—guilty. Harmon for Gov't. N. J. Lord and Northend, for def't.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 22, 1853.*

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

Will be sold at Public Auction, on SATURDAY, the 2d day of April next, at one o'clock in the afternoon, the home lately occupied by WM. G. LAKE, in Topsfield,

ALL THE RIGHT and title that WM. G. LAKE, deceased, owned in about eleven acres of LAND, situated on Lake's Hill (so called), in Topsfield; with about twelve hundred bearing Apple Trees, and four hundred Pear Trees, all of the choicest fruit.

Also—a NURSERY, on the same, containing about thirty thousand Apple, Pear, Plum and Peach Trees, of the choicest kind.

Also—one SHED, at the Congregational Meeting House; and a lot of Manure at the stable.

Also—1 Horse, 1 Chaise, 1 Sleigh, 1 Covered Wagon, 2 Buffalo Robes, a large lot of Farming Tools, &c. &c.

Also—1 Ox Wagon, 1 Cart, 1 Wagon, 1 Ox Sled, 2 Harnesses, &c. &c.

THOMAS J. CLARK, Adm'r.

Topsfield, March 25, 1853.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 1, 1853.*





TOPSFIELD, Wednesday, April 6.

The ground is being broken today for the making of the Georgetown and Danvers railroad. There will be a new location of railroad from Georgetown to South Reading, which makes a new route from Newburyport to Boston, *through Topsfield*. Will not this be "first rate" for Topsfield?

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 7, 1853.*

### FOR SALE.

At the NURSERY formerly occupied by WM. G. LAKE, deceased, in Topsfield, a large lot of APPLE, PEAR, PEACH, and PLUM TREES, of the choicest kinds.

☞ For further particulars, inquire of JEREMIAH BALCH, on the premises.

Topsfield, March 24, 1853.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 19, 1853.*

### Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Notice.

THE subscribers to the stock of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company are hereby notified, that the President and Directors of the Company have made the second assessment of ten dollars per share, on all the shares in said Corporation; and directed the same to be paid to the Treasurer, at his residence, in Topsfield, on the second day of May next; and they are requested to pay the same accordingly.

WM. N. CLEAVELAND, Treasurer.

Topsfield, April 19, 1853.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 22, 1853.*

### For the Gazette.

It appears, by the doings of the Legislature that a Normal School is to be established in the County of Essex.

We must be permitted to put in a claim for the good old town of Topsfield. In the first place, the centre of the county would seem to indicate the centre of accommodation for the purity and healthfulness of the air, the hills have nothing to be compared with them in any other part of the county. The scenery in and about the town excels; the drives, for beauty of scenery, and romantic views, are unsurpassed.

The meadows bordering Ipswich river, together with the bridges which span this gentle and peaceful stream, one of them, now erecting, composed of stone, arched, will form a very beau-





tiful feature in the landscape. A railroad is now being constructed, which will be finished by the autumn, which passes through the centre of the town, and all the public highways leading to Topsfield are very smooth and pleasant. The River Hill, which has been somewhat noted for its length and steepness will now be obviated by the new stone bridge on the Turnpike. There are two churches in process of erection and remodeling—a Congregational and Methodist. Fruit, of all kinds, is very abundant in Topsfield. Board will be as reasonable as in any part of the county; indeed, I do not know of any place where so many things combine, as in Topsfield, to form a very desirable locality for such an institution.

With no small degree of confidence, we invite the Commission, or whatever is empowered to select a site for the establishment, to examine our town before they decide upon a spot.

TOPSFIELD.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 26, 1853.*

### Danvers & Georgetown Railroad.

THE subscribers to the Stock of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company are notified that the following assessments have been made by the President and Directors on all the shares of the Capital Stock of said Company, viz:—

\$20 per share, payable on Monday, 8th of June next.

\$20 “ “ “ “ 4th of July “

\$20 “ “ “ “ 1st of August “

\$20 “ “ “ “ 5th of Sept. “

And the same are ordered to be paid at the residence of the Treasurer in Topsfield, at the times above named; and subscribers are requested to pay the same accordingly. Parties paying the same, or any part in advance, will be allowed interest to the time when they become due.

W. N. CLEVELAND, Treasurer.

*Salem Gazette, May 13, 1853.*

### DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

The work on this road, between North Danvers and Georgetown, is making very rapid progress. It is estimated that about one third of the entire work under contract is already completed. The most formidable ledge on the entire line is situated near Putnamville, or “Blind Hole,” in North Danvers, and is already taken down to a considerable extent. It is a somewhat remarkable fact that the cost of all the work thus far has been below





the estimates of the Engineer, which were thought, at the time they were first made, to be extravagantly low.

It is now expected, with reasonable confidence, that the road will be entirely graded and made ready for the track before winter, and that the track will be laid early in the spring. The company are making contracts for their iron, as we are informed at the present time.—Obs.

*Salem Gazette, July 12, 1853.*

### Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company.

THE stockholders of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company are hereby notified that their Annual Meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, the third day of August next, at the Academy Hall, in Topsfield, at two o'clock in the afternoon, to choose a board of Directors; to make such alterations in the By-Laws as they shall deem proper; and to do any other business that may legally come before them.

Per Order,

GEO. F. CHOATE, Clerk.

*Salem Gazette, July 19, 1853.*

FOR SALE—A valuable estate in Topsfield, nine miles from Salem, on the County Road to Haverhill, consisting of a good Dwelling House, two Barns, a Shoe Manufactory, and about two and a half acres of land, with a good variety of fruit and ornamental trees.

Said estate has a front on said County road, of 17 rods and 10 feet, and is within 40 rods of the railroad now building between Georgetown and Danvers.

Apply to JOHN WRIGHT, on the premises.

*Salem Gazette, July 26, 1853.*

*Directors of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad.*—W. D. Northend, of Salem, G. J. Tenney, Georgetown, Saml. Little, do., Thomas Perley, of Boxford, J. S. Black, of N. Danvers, G. Coggswell, of Bradford, C. J. Brockway, of Newburyport, Chas. Herrick, of Topsfield, Gilbert Tapley, of N. Danvers.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 23, 1853.*

SPUNKY. The people of the town of Essex are talking of building a railroad from that town to the new Road in Topsfield, intersecting the Eastern near the Hamilton meeting house, about six miles. Should that road be build, and those completed that are now already chartered, there will not be a town in





Essex County without a railroad passing through its territory.—  
*Newburyport Union.*

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1853.*

By John G. Hood, Auctioneer,

**TOPSFIELD**

*Administratrix's Sale of Real Estate.*

By order of Probate Court, will be sold at Public Auction, on FRIDAY, the 18th day of November next,—THE following described Real Estate, now belonging to the estate of JOHN C. BALCH, late of Topsfield, yeoman, deceased:—

A parcel of Pasture Land, situated in Topsfield, containing four acres, known as the Copper Mine Lot.

Also, one undivided half part of about two acres of Peat Meadow, situated in Boxford, near the house of Francis Hood.

Also, one undivided half part of about sixteen acres of Wood Land, situated in Boxford, near to Crooked Pond.

Also, one Pew (No. 53) in the Congregational Meeting House, in Topsfield.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock, A. M., with the Copper Mine Pasture, on the premises, and at which time and place the Peat Meadow will be sold; and at 1 o'clock, P. M., the Wood Land, on the premises; and at 3 o'clock, the Pew, at the meeting-house.

Conditions made known at the sale.

MARY ANN BALCH, Adm'r.

Topsfield, Oct. 28, 1853.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 28, 1853.*

**DEATHS.**

In Topsfield, Widow Dolly T. Pike, aged 96; Austin, son of Mr. Humphrey Wildes, jr., aged 4 years.—His death was occasioned by getting accidentally a kernel of corn in his windpipe.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 6, 1853.*

**BURGLARY.** The shoe store of Mr. Perley Balch, of Topsfield, was broken open on Wednesday night, and shoes and stock to the amount of about one hundred dollars, stolen therefrom.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 9, 1853.*





*Fire at Topsfield.* On Friday afternoon at 5½ o'clock, the barn, with all its contents of hay, grain, &c., of Asa Pingree, Esq., in Topsfield, took fire, and was entirely destroyed. The cause of the fire was not known.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 13, 1853.*

**MAD DOGS.** On the 25th of November the inhabitants of Topsfield were somewhat surprised by the appearance of a large black dog, with a leather collar around his neck, and an iron ring attached to it. The dog both looked and acted strangely, biting every dog he chanced to meet, and, on the day following, was killed in the east part of the town. It was soon known that he had bitten a large number of dogs and one cow. In two weeks, a dog owned by Mr. Moody Andrews was taken sick, and is supposed that he was mad. After raving and frothing a few days he was killed. Also, about the same time, a hog, owned by J. N. Pope, of Boxford, was taken in much the same way, and died in a few days. The next Wednesday a dog owned by Mr. Eleazer Lake was taken in much the same way, and, after lingering a few days, died. On the 9th of December, being just three weeks, a hog, owned by Mr. James Cass, was taken sick in much the same manner as the other hog and dogs, and we think there is no doubt that the hog is mad, as it is known he was bitten by the same dog. All the above, and many other dogs, are known to have been bitten, and in most cases they have been killed.

Since writing the above, we hear that a dog owned by Mr. George Wilkins of Middleton, has become mad by the bite of the same dog;—also a cow in Middleton.—*Reg.*

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 16, 1853.*

The following petition was left yesterday, at the City Hall :

*To the Honorable Ashael Huntington, Mayor of Salem and those associated with him in the Government of that city.*

The undersigned, citizens of Topsfield, are painfully concerned on account of the prevalence of drunkenness in our town. We have done something, and are now doing, what we can, to stay the progress of this vice, and to reclaim its degraded victims, and restore them to their families and to society. But we find our efforts thwarted to a great extent by the facility with which the evil disposed and weak minded obtain the means of intoxication in your city. So long as such a state of things continues there, many of our young men and boys will become miserable inebriates, and, many of our families, will endure all the wretchedness which a drunken husband and father is sure to inflict—





notwithstanding our best endeavors to prevent drunkenness, and to reform the drunkard.

In our distress we turn to you, and respectfully but earnestly ask that the laws of our Commonwealth, intended to restrict and to prohibit the traffic in intoxicating drinks, may be faithfully and rigorously enforced within the bounds of your jurisdiction. When this shall be done, we believe that a principal fountain whence flow demoralization poverty and ruin to a considerable portion of our fellow citizens, and indescribable anguish to their families, will be dried up. We have no purpose or desire to instruct you respecting your official duties, but deeply feeling and frankly acknowledging our great need of your assistance, if ye can do anything in the way we have suggested, we entreat you as faithful rulers and good men that ye will help us.

Topsfield Dec. 9, 1853.

The above petition is signed by 119 citizens and legal voters of Topsfield.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 23, 1853.*

### THE SNOW STORM.

On Saturday night and Sunday we had yet another fall of snow, of several inches, making the fourth within a week, and leveling off the heaps for sleighing. Between two and three feet on a level must have fallen in all.

A letter from the Topsfield Postmaster, dated Friday says: "The wind blew from the northeast until 4 P. M., yesterday and heaped the snow, in places 10 or 15 feet deep. After it changed to the northwest, it reversed the order of things, and completely shifted the snow heaps. Not a horse passed my store yesterday—a circumstance which never occurred before, say for twenty-five years. My hogs are completely immersed in snow, and my horses are hemmed in with a bank of snow ten feet around my stable—when I shall get them out remains to be seen. Our farmers are turning out their teams for an old-fashioned "Break-Path," and when a good road is completed I shall visit you."

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 3, 1854.*

[A column-length letter from Asahel Huntington, Mayor of Salem, replying to the petition of R. A. Merriam and 118 others and promising to enforce the laws to the best of his ability, is printed in the Jan. 6th issue of the Salem Gazette.]

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1854.*





**COLD WEATHER.** At Topsfield, on Sunday morning, at sunrise, the mercury in the thermometer of B. P. Adams, Esq., was at 20 below zero; at noon it rose to 10 above, after which it commenced falling, and at sunrise it stood at zero.—At 9 in the evening, it was 14, and Monday morning, 20 below zero.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 31, 1854.*

For the Salem Gazette.

*Mr. Editor*—I notice, by the papers, that mad dogs are becoming quite numerous of late, and the losses of animals (to say nothing of human life), are far greater than the worth of all the dogs in christendom. Not long since a mad dog passed through Topsfield, and bit a large fat hog, on the farm of Mr. Thomas Cass, and in about two weeks the hog was seized with spasms, making all the attempts in its power to escape from its pen, and in a few hours died. Several dogs were bitten, some of which were killed by their owners immediately, while others were permitted to live; but into about two weeks became rabid, and were either killed, or died (as they were kept confined by their owners), and hundreds of people saw them in this condition.

Another mad dog passed through this town some three or four weeks since, and bit a fine horse, which was (after being bitten), bought by Mr. John S. Whipple. he not knowing the fact at the time he made the purchase. After driving the horse, one day last week, Mr. Whipple discovered that he appeared sick during the evening, though he went perfectly well during the day. Mr. W. had not a thought of the true cause of his complaint at the time, but administered to him a medicine (as he supposed for another complaint), by drawing his tongue from his mouth with his hand and inserting the neck of a bottle in his throat and letting the medicine run down. Think of the danger of Mr. Whipple during this process.

This seemed to deprive the poor animal of all power of government; his ravings were indescribable, he kicked and bit everything within his reach, leaving the print of his teeth in many places, and at last leaped through a narrow glass window, not wide enough for him to pass without scraping his hair from both sides, running at full speed through the town till at last he became exhausted and died. It does seem to me, Mr. Editor, that this, together with the many other instances lately recorded of mad dogs, ought to cause to be destroyed many of the worthless dogs which are so numerous both in Cities and Towns.

Topsfield, April 14, 1854.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 18, 1854.*





## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, 18th inst, Mrs. Lydia Peabody, widow of the late Mr. John Peabody, aged 89. Mrs. P. was the oldest inhabitant of the town, and the last of the Revolutionary pensioners.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 21, 1854.*

TOPSFIELD, June 1, 1854.

The new Methodist E. Church, at Topsfield, which was commenced a year ago, is just completed, and is a beautiful ornament to the town. The dedication is to take place on Wednesday, June 14, at half past 10 o'clock, A. M. Sermon on the occasion by the Rev. L. D. Barrows, Lowell.

The house is 75 by 45 and has 70 pews. It has a fine tower, in which is a splendid bell, from the foundry of H. N. Hooper, Esq., of Boston. The bell is the gift of sundry members of the society. The house has a hall, the dimensions of which, are 75 by 45 feet, and all furnished.

The building was erected under the care of a committee, who hired the workmen by the day; the work was executed under the direction of Mr. Jacob Foster, and gives him good credit as an architect. The inside of the church was handsomely frescoed by Bartoll & Henderson, of Marblehead; the painting of the centre piece is admired by all who have seen it. The pulpit, chairs and sofa, were furnished and executed by Messrs. Whipple & Fellows of Salem, and do good credit to these gentlemen, as furnishers of articles of that kind.

The house is finely carpeted, throughout, by the ladies of the society; and one thing worthy of mention is, that the amount expended for the furnishing of the house was earned by the ladies of the sewing circle, in closing and binding shoes.

*Salem Gazette, June 6, 1854.*

## TOPSFIELD.

TOPSFIELD, June 27th. The new Methodist Episcopal Church in this town was dedicated on the 14th day of this month [June].—And we would remark, that here, as in most places in New England, Methodism had to struggle against overshadowing influence of old and pre-established systems whose selfish and unsympathizing policy has here compelled the little company of founders to exercise in a high degree the sublime virtue of endurance, and to wait patiently for their prosperity.





The exercises commenced at 10 1-2 o'clock in the following order, viz:—Voluntary, by the choir. "Awake, put on thy strength, O Zion," 1. Invocation, by Rev. Mr. Butler, of Lynn; 2. Hymn 964; 3. Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Gordon of Danvers; 4. Anthem, "I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord;" 5. Reading of the scriptures, by Rev. Mr. Dadman, of Ipswich; 6. Hymn 969; 7. Sermon, by Rev. Mr. Barrows, of Lowell; 8. Dedictory prayer, by Rev. Mr. Crowell, of Lynn, presiding Elder of the District; 9. Anthem, "Now elevate the sign of Judah;" 10. Benediction, by the pastor of the church.

The instrumental and vocal music was conducted by *Sam'l S. Mackenzie, Esq.*, who has been our Chorister for some years, assisted by several well known musical performers, whose music was of the *highest* order.

In addition to what was said in the "Mercury" of the 7th, I would say that the building was erected under the care of a committee, who hired the workmen by the day; Mr. Graves, of Boston, was the Architect, the work was executed under the care of Messrs. Jacob Foster and John H. Potter, and gives them great credit as carpenters, or master builders.

L.

*Salem Gazette, June 30, 1854.*

### *INTEMPERANCE AND DEATH.*

TOPSFIELD, July 20, 1854.

There was found, the early part of last week, in a secluded place, away from any habitation, in the westerly part of Ipswich, a dead man, with a rum jug lying by his side. The appearance would indicate that he had been dead several days. He was discovered by accident, by a man who was driving cattle from the pasture, and his loathsome remains were taken possession of by the Overseers of the Poor in Topsfield, and buried on the town farm. Such is the end of Aaron Cross, a man of about 60 years, who, but for intemperance, might have been respected in his life and lamented in his death. He was once a keeper of a victualling cellar in Derby Street, at the head of Union wharf in Salem, where he saved a sufficient amount of money to make him independent in his old age; but he long since spent his last dollar, and the last few years of his life were spent in wandering from house to house, drinking rum and cider wherever he could get it, till at last death relieved the community of him.

*Salem Gazette, July 25, 1854.*





## Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company.

THE Stockholders of the DANVERS AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD COMPANY are hereby notified that their Annual Meeting will be held at MUNDAY'S HALL, in Topsfield, on WEDNESDAY, the 2d day of August next, at two o'clock, P. M., for the following purposes, viz :—

1st. To choose a Board of Directors for the coming year.

2d. To see if the Company will issue bonds, agreeable to the act of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, passed April 13th, 1854, entitled "An Act to authorize Railroad Companies to issue Bonds," and authorize the Directors thereto.

3d. To see if the Company will accept the act of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, passed May 2d, 1853, entitled "An Act concerning the Newburyport, Danvers and Georgetown, and Danvers Railroad Companies," and to take such action as they shall deem proper for the purpose of uniting with the said Danvers and Newburyport Railroad Companies, under said act; and to do any other things which they are authorized by said act to do.

4th. To do any other business that may legally come before them.

Per order,

GEO. F. CHOATE, Clerk.

Salem, July 25, 1854.

*Salem Gazette Aug. 1, 1854.*

**COWARDLY RASCALITY.** We learn that a valuable horse, belonging to Mr. Samuel Janes, of Topsfield, who runs a Daily Express between that town and Salem, was maliciously stabbed in two places, on Tuesday night of last week, by some unknown hand. A rain had recently fallen, and the horse was turned out in the evening for the benefit of his feet, and in company with several other horses, passed the night on or near the Common. On Wednesday morning he was found bleeding freely from the wounds, both of which were evidently inflicted with one and the same knife, and died in the course of the day. There is but one tone of indignant public sentiment in the town in regard to this malicious butchering of a useful and valuable horse, and that is of unqualified reprehension of the cowardly villany that would prompt to so base an act, for the evident purpose of injuring a poor but unoffending fellow townsman. We are glad to hear that some of the most influential citizens of Topsfield are





taking prompt and active measures to remunerate Mr. Janes for at least a portion of his loss.—*Reg.*

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 4, 1854.*

## DEATHS.

In Portland, 3d inst., Capt. Daniel Cummings, a native of Topsfield, Mass., aged 80.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 8, 1854.*

The Boston Transcript states that the new railroad between Boston and Newburyport over the Danvers Railroad and the Danvers and Georgetown roads, will be opened for public travel next month. The road is nearly completed, the cars and engines are on the line, and but a few weeks are required to complete the track. This line will open a railway communication through a portion of Essex County not accommodated by existing lines. The route will be over the Boston and Maine road to South Reading, near the junction of the Salem and South Reading roads. From thence the new track runs through Lynnfield, Tapleyville, North Danvers, Topsfield, Boxford, Georgetown and Newbury, to Newburyport. On Saturday last, the cars ran, for the first time, into the village of Topsfield, from Georgetown.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 15, 1854.*

The "iron horse" arrived, for the first time, at the railroad station, in the village of Topsfield, on Thursday last; and in the course of this week it is expected it may reach Danvers Plains.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 22, 1854.*

## TOPSFIELD.

Topsfield, Aug. 19.

Our Georgetown, Topsfield and Danvers Railroad, is just drawing to a completion. The whistle of the engine has, for the first time, within a week, disturbed the quiet slumbers of our village. The rails are now laid as far as the Ipswich River, south of the village, one mile. In one week more, the rails will be laid as far as North Danvers; and by the first day of September, the cars will commence running over the road; which will be a day of much interest to the towns, through which it passes.—The distance from Newburyport to Boston





will be, by this route, thirty-four miles, or two miles farther than by Newburyport Turnpike. This road is said to be one of the best graded roads in the country, and from present appearance, promises all that its friends ever claimed for it.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the President and Directors of this company, for the manner in which they have carried the matter so near to its final completion.

L

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 22, 1854.*

### DANVERS and GEORGETOWN RAILROAD.

Topsfield, Aug. 31, 1854.

The passenger cars on the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, ran yesterday, for the first time, between Topsfield and Georgetown, to carry a party of one hundred and fifty to a picnic in Little's Grove.

It is understood that the whole line of the road will be completed on Friday, and that the cars will run to Boston on Saturday.

L.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 1, 1854.*

### OPENING OF THE GEORGETOWN, DANVERS & SOUTH READING RAILROAD.

Correspondence of the Salem Gazette.

Topsfield, Sept. 2d, 1854.

*Mr. Editor*—By the polite invitation of the President and Directors of the above companies, I took the cars at Topsfield, early in the afternoon of September 1st, for South Reading, for the purpose of making an experimental trials of the above roads; and believing that a few notes by the way might be interesting to you, and the numerous readers of your valuable journal, I offer them for publication. At the station at Topsfield large numbers had assembled to witness our departure, and to congratulate us on the prospect of the pleasure of the excursion. We glided finely along, and the first place of particular note that we came to was what was formerly called *Blind Hole*, but latterly named *Putnamville*. There we passed through a formidable ledge, of the hardest granite, which has yielded to the influence of the hammer and drill. After little delay at Porter's plain, we passed on to North Danvers, where several hundred had assembled to witness our arrival, which was greeted with cheers.





From North Danvers we started for *Tapleyville*, and on our arrival at the depot we were hailed with much joy. Our demonstration was by a noble fire company, out on duty, waiting our arrival.

From hence we passed on to that famous place, which has been visited by thousands the past summer, called "*Needham's Hill*." Here we had an opportunity to witness what skill, perseverance and industry had accomplished to divide this monster of a hill, and let the *iron horse* pass on without molestation.

The next place of note that we arrived at was that famous place known to the ancient's as the *Devil's Dishfull*, but to modern travellers as *Brook Dale*. The inhabitants must be very much benefitted by this road.

A few puffs of the iron horse, brought us to Lynnfield depot. At this place we found flags flying and numbers had assembled to greet us onward.

From this place we moved smoothly on, and shortly arrived at *South Reading*, where we stopped for the space of an hour, to *wood-up* and to exchange congratulations with the friends, upon the success of this brilliant and successful *enterprise*.

We then started homeward bound, and arrived safely at our destination. It is worthy of note that from the appearances upon the route, the road will be well patronized, and most assuredly it should be for the perservance with which the work has been executed; for, like all public works, it has had its enemies to contend with, both in single and corporate capacities; but under the management of its gentlemanly and obliging officers, it must arrive at a good state of prosperity, and be one of the crowning roads of the county.

The gentlemen from Newburyport, who accompanied the excursion train, were well pleased with the appearances of the country, and the road, and the new facilities that it will offer them to enter *Boston* at a *convenient place*.

L.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 5, 1854.*

On Thursday afternoon, a barn owned by Henry Towne of Topsfield, was accidentally fired by a small boy, and the barn with its contents was destroyed. The barn was valued at \$300, contents \$750. No insurance.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 12, 1854.*





## GREAT SALE OF TREES.

From Lake's Celebrated Topsfield Nurseries. Will be offered at Public Auction, on SATURDAY, Oct. 14th, at 10 o'clock A. M.,—

A large variety of TREES, consisting in part of Pear, Plum, Peach, Apple, and Cherry; also, Apricots and Nectarines; also, superior Apple Trees. The Cherry Trees are of a superior variety.

This sale will offer great inducements, as every thing sold will be in good condition and the variety complete.

—Also at 9 o'clock,—

A lot of Furniture, &c.

Cash advanced on consignments.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 10, 1854.*

**GREAT YIELD OF APPLES.** We learn that there has been gathered the present week, from a single apple, upon the farm of MR. NEHEMIAH PERKINS, in Topsfield, the extraordinary quantity of *one hundred bushels* (40 barrels) of apples; The tree has always been a great bearer, frequently producing from 50 to 60 bushels. The fruit is of a tart flavor and moderate size; the tree is about 50 year old.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 17, 1854.*

THE DANVERS RAILROAD is to be opened on Monday next, agreeably to the notice which will be found in another column, and there will be six trains between Boston and North Danvers daily. Trains between Salem, South Danvers and Boston, will be run in connection with the above trains, via the Salem and Lowell Railroad, connecting at West Danvers Junction. The Danvers and Georgetown R. R. opens the same day.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 20, 1854.*

## OVER THE NEW RAILROADS.

The new railroads, as we have before stated, open a new communication between several of the towns of Essex county, never before visited by the locomotive. By the new route to Boston you first proceed over the Salem and Lowell Railroad, passing the usual stations upon that road, to West Danvers. At this junction the train from Salem is attached to another from Newburyport, and is thus conveyed over the new road to South Reading, where it passes over the Boston and Maine road into





Boston. The intermediate stations between West Danvers and South Reading, are "Brookdale" (the settlement about the woolen factory, and part of West Danvers commonly called the "Dishful" we believe), and Lynnfield Centre—a village of the town of Lynnfield, about two miles from the hotel. These localities have never before been connected by railroad with any other point.

The West Danvers junction is in the midst of woods and thickets, but presents a very business like appearance in the railroad line, to those passengers who have occasion to change cars for Newburyport, or any of the towns in that direction. That part of the line between South Reading and Georgetown is newly built—the new *Danvers and Georgetown* road extending from the latter town to North Danvers, and the *Danvers* road from North Danvers to South Reading, connecting there with the *Boston and Maine* road, to which the Danvers has been leased.

The cars from Boston for Salem over this route are connected with the trains for Newburyport, and are switched off at the West Danvers junction, to the Lowell road, while the remainder of the train, making first a brief stop, continues on the straight course. We have stated this for the information of those who do not thoroughly understand the *modus operandi* of the new arrangement.

Taking a comfortable seat in one of the splendid new cars, in company with a good number of "regulars" and "invited guests," we proceed to the direction of Newburyport. Most of the railroad routes in this State present an attractive scenery to the passenger, characterised, however, by a certain sameness relieved only by an occasional arrival at some thrifty settlement, which may present some particular object worthy of a passing note. As strangers passing over this road in trains which do not stop at every station, sometimes inquire the names of the various settlements, we would state that the first after leaving the junction, is Tapleville, or "Danvers Centre"—a village devoted, like most of the small towns of Essex county, to shoe manufacturing, and farming. The next settlement is at "Danvers Plains," where you cross the track of the Essex Railroad, the depot of which is but a short distance to the south-east. As you pass on from here, a few settlements and shoe manufacturies may be observed upon the left, which is known to the Danvers "natives," as "Putnamville"—one of those designations given probably in honor of the family whose name is largely in the preponderance in the locality, and another so necessary to





distinguish the various villages embraced in the extensive area of land within the precincts of Danvers town.

The next stopping place is at

### TOPSFIELD.

As a more extended notice of the before mentioned places has been published in this paper, we cannot forbear jumping out at this station to pass a few hours in the company of those friends whom we occasionally meet in Salem upon their business visits, usually to obtain a supply of the various articles for which their own stores often receive a "call."

Topsfield is a very pretty little country town, abounding in hills and plains, of which one may obtain an excellent and extended view from several of the hills and more elevated roads in the vicinity. A mile and a half to the westward of the main settlement, is the Boyden stock farm—devoted exclusively to the raising of live stock. Horses, pigs, and cattle of all kinds may here gratify the sight of those who delight in these hobbies, and some excellent specimens of these several animals may be here examined. A couple of noble stallions one of which took a prize at the last cattle show, are among the varieties, and the latter of these, is one of the most beautifully formed animals that we ever beheld.

Passing down from this farm upon the Newburyport turnpike you have occasion to pass over the arched bridge over the Ipswich river. This bridge was built a year or two ago at a very considerable expense both to the county, and the town of Topsfield, we believe. It is a very substantial structure, and will undoubtedly endure for ages. "Lake's Hill" is somewhat nearer the village, and is probably so called from the name of the proprietors of the celebrated nurseries in the vicinity. The steep roadway leading from these orchards affords an excellent view of the village and its two spires, so necessary to contribute a sort of "finishing touch" to a New England country town.

Among the neat houses in Topsfield, that of Wm. N. Cleaveland, Esq. would probably strike one's eye as combining a unique and general orderly appearance. The extensive, well enclosed lands possess a peculiar charm, both from their situation, and the neat manner in which they are kept. A new house is being erected near by, also, by John G. Hood, Esq.

Topsfield is possessed of about five public schools, and one academy which qualifies its pupils for college. This academy has been built about twenty years. There are two churches here, one of which—the Methodists'—was dedicated no longer ago than last June. Farming and shoe-making constitute the chief







business of the place, and in the latter branch of industry, Chas. Herrick's establishment is the most extensive. Munday's butchery, near the depot, is probably the largest concern of its kind in the vicinity, supplying, to a great extent, many of the Salem and other dealers. About ten thousand sheep are slaughtered annually at this establishment, and we were informed that no inconsiderable amount of duties was paid annually for the stock brought from the Canadas. The jocular friend who accompanied us insisted upon our taking a sharp scrutiny of the full proportions of the chief proprietor of this concern, for the purpose of giving him a "puff;" but, as he would weigh from two to three hundred pounds, extra *puffing* is deemed unnecessary.

There are but two grocery stores kept in Topsfield—one by Mr. Kimball (formerly Kimball & Gould), and the other by B. P. Adams, Esq. It would have afforded us much pleasure to have passed an evening with our friend Adams, enjoying the rich treat which must be afforded in listening to the threadbare yarns and village gossip of the "settlers," who are quite as capable of talking, at least,

——— "with looks profound,"

upon the current subjects of political interest. But time would not permit of this; and we have only to keep this entertainment in anticipation, as another opportunity may soon be offered of passing the social evening, as well as bestowing a scrutiny upon the *unvisited* "Long Wharf."

Topsfield is one of the towns never visited by the locomotive previous to the opening of the Georgetown road. With the leisure of the evening, therefore, many of the people, old and young, congregate at the depot to witness the arrival and departure of the trains, as they undoubtedly present the same novelty to many of the good folks of Topsfield that they did to a large portion of the Salemites when the Eastern road was first opened.

Leaving Topsfield, the cars will take you to Boxford, the next station on the route, and a town which sends much ship timber to Newburyport and Essex, and from thence to Georgetown, the terminus of the Danvers and Georgetown road. By the Newburyport and Georgetown road, however, trains connect with Haverhill, Bradford, Groveland, Byfield, and Newburyport.

Several of the depots along the road are as yet unfinished, but will probably be completed in a short time. Those of our citizens who devote a month or two of each year to time-killing at Newport and Niagara, will do well to improve the opportunity now





offered, and bestow a single visit, at least, upon the towns of their own county.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 31, 1854.*

### VALUATION OF TOPSFIELD.

The Assessors of Topsfield for the present year, have made the valuation of the Town, viz:

Real Estate,	\$384,990
Personal Estate,	208,100

---

Total Value, \$593,090

on which has been assessed at 60 per cent, a tax including State and County of \$3,558 27  
and on 297 Polls at 1.50 each 445 50

---

making an amount of \$4,003 77

of which am't. the Town taxes are \$3,079 77  
County taxes, 672 00  
State taxes, 252 00

---

\$4,003 77

List of names of those persons in Topsfield whose taxes are \$25.00 and upwards.

B. P. Adams, \$37.35; Sam'l Adams, 28.50; Mrs. Sophronia Averell, 28.01; Mrs. Mary Ames, 42.60; Abraham Balch, 32.37; Perley Balch, 31.80; Joseph W. Batchelder, 25.87; Dudley Bradstreet, 37.89; Wm. Bradstreet, jr., 29.64; Frederic Boyden, 83.07; William Cummings, 32.10; Humphrey Clarke, 26.67; John Dwinell, 54.12; Samuel Gould, 31.98; Charles Herriek, 91.20; John Lamson, 49.60; R. A. Merriam, 34.41; William Mundy, 58.35; Benj. C. Orne, 28.11; Joel R. Peabody, 26.76; Asa Pingree, 346.63; Moses Pettingill, 43.20; Mrs. Molly Perkins, 29.40; David Perkins, 25.77; Richard Phillips, jr., 27.57; Israel Rea, 37.62; Willard Smith, 34.53; Eben W. Towne, 25.36; David Towne, 48.12; Benj. B. Towne, 33.27; Alfred P. Towne, 31.71; Jacob P. Towne, 44.81; Wildes & Bartlett, 27.83; Moses Wildes, 182.22; John Wright, 73.03; Moses Putnam (Danvers), 26.67; John Cleaveland (New York), 33.72.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 7, 1854.*





A MUSICAL CONVENTION, is to be held at the Congregational Church, in Topsfield, on Monday, Nov. 27th, commencing at 9 o'clock, A. M., under the direction of Mr. B. F. Baker, assisted by Messrs. S. B. Ball and Charles Henderson, and Mrs. J. H. Long, of Boston.

The object of the Convention, as set forth in a circular by the conductors, is to impart instruction in Music, and to awaken a more intelligent interest in singing as a part of public worship, to study and practise with reference to skill and taste in musical performance, and to promote a more uniform and consistent style in Singing. A Concert will be given in the evening.

Conventions of this sort are calculated to produce good results for the improvement of musical taste in the community, and it is hoped this opportunity for the furtherance of an object so desirable, will not be neglected by the citizens of

ESSEX COUNTY.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 24, 1854.*

FATAL ACCIDENT. We are informed by Mr. Janes of the Topsfield Express, that an accident of a very painful nature, occurred in that town, on Thursday last. A young man named John Andrews, aged 16 years, son of Mr. Moody Andrews, of Topsfield, was in the fields for the purpose of shooting game, having loaded his gun, he laid it upon the ground, and shortly afterwards seeing a squirrel near by, he took hold of the gun near the muzzle and attempted to draw it towards him, when the hammer struck a stone or bush, causing it to explode, the whole charge entering near the region of the heart, and causing death in a few minutes. He is represented as a young man of much promise, and the bereavement to the family is truly afflictive. The agony of the father who was present with him at the time was agonizing.—*Obs.*

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 28, 1854.*

*From the Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil.*

MR. BOYDEN'S PLACE, TOPSFIELD, MASS.

USE OF HAZEL-RODS BY MR. WILLARD.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Having just returned from a visit to my friend, Fred'k Boyden, of Topsfield, you will please accept some crayon-sketches of his freehold, and some of his animals. It is the old Crowninshield Farm and mansion including some two hundred acres, capable of yielding as many tons of English





hay, beside all that's needed for pasture, tillage, and a spacious garden, with a great and choice variety of fruit trees, shrubbery, and vines, accessible by walks which have been sown with salt, so that not a weed or spire of grass impedes the pleasant rambles. It is one large swell of land. The buildings are on the eastern slope, near the greatest elevation, surrounded by many kinds of ornamental trees, among which the fir and maple are conspicuous on the avenues; apple trees by the walls inclosing and dividing this extensive and princely domain, which was built at the expense of some thousands. The land is generally rich and productive, having suffered little from the drought, so extensively and long prevalent.

It was to designate a spot where to dig for a spring of living water, that I was requested to visit his premises, that might, if possible, be brought to his barns in pipes, where his large stock is now supplied by a chain pump from a well 40 feet deep, requiring the labor of one man a great part of his time. In this I succeeded by the use of mineral rods, finding a vein of water 25 feet deep, running towards the barn, from the height of land, till within 12 feet of the surface. From this point it may be conveyed with a strong pressure to his stable, and after accommodating his large herd of swine in the barnyard under them, waste into a reservoir. I might add, several gentlemen were present during the examination, from several towns, who witnessed the operation of the rod, and the highly satisfactory results. After which I examined the grounds of another gentleman, who had thought he would spare no expense for an aqueduct, if he could bring water into his chamber. After long and carefully traversing his premises, we succeeded in finding a spring sufficiently elevated for his purpose. This took most of the day and demonstrated to the most skeptical the merits of the immense labor-saving operation, as a reliable way of ascertaining these subterranean channels, or springs of living water. In some cases, we would trace a vein by the perpendicular attraction of the rods, occasionally setting stakes, and ascertain its depth by stations on each side, where the attraction would be horizontally according to the distance from the stakes over the vein. In one case we found the attraction towards a single point, from any station within fifty feet; hence we concluded there was a boiling spring.

I was highly gratified by inspecting some fifty of Mr. Boyden's pigs, and by learning their pedigree to be unquestionable. They are pure Suffolk, from the Stickney importation. The best plates I have ever seen are a fair daguerreotype of some of his





boars. He has one, three years old, as nearly perfect as could be desired. Most of his pigs are from this beautiful sire. I could not leave till I had selected a pair from a favorite sow, which I expect soon to receive by the cars, and feed with pleasure. He has sold some to go to Iowa. We must esteem him a "benefactor," who furnishes the sire and dam of a breed gaining two pounds of fat per day, with the same feed that would, in any other breed, gain one, no less than he who does the same in grass.


When we had taken tea, I feared we should miss the cars, as the railroad station of Beaver Brook was three miles distant. He said "No"—harnessed his stallion—19 years old—looked at his watch, said, "Time enough." True; we were there in twelve minutes, under a check rein. He showed me his young stud, "Tricolor." The next day was Cattle-Show at Lawrence, and I noticed since, in the *Massachusetts Ploughman*, "The first premium, \$20, for best stallion, 'Tricolor,' was awarded to Frederick Boyden, of Topsfield." I saw some of the stock of both his old and young horse, two year old colts, that he said could not be bought for \$200 each!

Yours truly,

BENJAMIN WILLARD.

*Lancaster, Mass., Oct. 4, 1854.*

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 30, 1854.*

 The last of the old stage drivers,—Mr. Isaac Pinkham,—who has for so many years kept up the reputation of the craft for fidelity and obliging attention to business, has at last surrendered, and commenced yesterday the conveyance of the mail between Salem and Haverhill, by the way of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad. He will continue as heretofore to attend to any business that may be entrusted to him.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 2, 1855.*

MR. PINKHAM.—This venerable and faithful old stager, who has run a carriage between Haverhill and Salem, about 29 years, has concluded to take off his nags, and hitch himself on to cars drawn by iron horses on the Newburyport and Danvers railroad. He is a faithful, honest, and trustworthy carrier and will do errands as usual.—*Banner*.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 2, 1855.*





## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, Mr. Jacob Symonds, aged 72 years, 10 mos.—he has been a market man to Salem for the last fifty years, and was highly esteemed as an honest man and worthy citizen.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 9, 1855.*

[Mail arrangements at Salem. Haverhill and Topsfield mail arrives at 12 M.; closes at 2½ P. M.]

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 9, 1855.*

## SALEM and HAVERHILL.

MR. PINKHAM, having given up his stage line, now passes daily over the road to Haverhill, by the way of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, leaving Salem at half past 2 o'clock, P. M., and Haverhill, at half past 7, A. M. He will continue, as heretofore, to attend to any business that may be entrusted to him.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 9, 1855.*

The passage of the cars upon the Newburyport Railroad, which has been interrupted since the late freshet, by the destruction of the bridge over Ipswich river, in Topsfield, was regularly resumed yesterday.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 2, 1855.*

## DEATHS.

In Topsfield, Mr. Solomon Averill, aged 85 years, 7 months. Mrs. Rebecca Lake, aged 89 years and 6 months, the oldest person in town. She was a specimen of that class of persons who were raised at a time when the physical constitution was formed capable of endurance. She was never sick with a fever during her long life and her last illness were the four last days of her life. She had been able to move about with comparative ease and visited her friends at a distance from her home a few weeks before her death.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 6, 1855.*

## TOPSFIELD.

Correspondence of the Salem Gazette.

The annual Town meeting was held in Topsfield on Monday, when the following list of officers was chosen.

*Moderator.*—Joel Lake.

*Town Clerk.*—Jacob P. Towne.





*Selectmen.*—Andrew Gould ; S. S. Mackenzie ; B. B. Towne.

*Overseers.*—Andrew Gould ; E. F. Perkins ; L. H. Gould.

*School Committee.*—J. H. Healey ; Rev. S. G. Hyler ; Josiah Bradstreet ; Israel Ray ; Alfred P. Towne.

*Assessors.*—John G. Hood ; R. D. Perkins ; John Wright.

*Treasurer.*—Benj. Kimball.

*Collector.*—Samuel Adams.

*Constables.*—Joel Lake ; R. D. Perkins ; M. P. Towne.

By the "underground telegraph" I learn that the K. N. party met last Saturday evening, for the purpose of nominating a list to be voted for, but the "Wilson element" entering into their deliberations broke them up, without making any nomination. So that our election passed off on the old fashioned principles, and the result was that we chose a board of officers from among our best citizens, who are capable of discharging their duties. Our friends, who were so numerous last fall, have been in—"seen Sam" and find him the same old impostor that has been about for several years.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 9, 1855.*

**THE OSIER WILLOW.** Mr. J. Lake, of the Topsfield Nursery, brought to our office, yesterday, a rod of the Osier or Basket Willow,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length, a specimen of thirty stocks, grown in the space of eighteen square inches of well cultivated land.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 27, 1855.*

**ACCIDENT IN BOXFORD.**—On Monday, as Mr. Moses P. Towne of Topsfield, was tending a circular saw at Kimball & Sawyer's mill, in Boxford, his hand came in contact with it in turning carelessly round, taking off all his fingers on one hand, at the second joint. The saw was revolving at a speed of 1600 revolutions a minute.

This mill was formerly a peg factory, owned and conducted by Mr. Wm. Sawyer. A steam engine has been recently introduced into it, to aid in carrying on a new branch of business which has been substituted—that of sawing, and making boxes.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 30, 1855.*

## FRUIT TREES.

For sale, at the TOPSFIELD NURSERIES, the following kinds of Trees :—

29,000 Apple Trees, smooth and handsome, from \$10 to \$25 per hundred ;

500 Peach Trees ;





300 Cherry Trees ;  
 1,000 Dwarf Pear Trees ;  
 900 Standard Pear Trees, extra growth and beauty ;  
 200 Plum Trees ;  
 200 Sugar Maple.

☞ All orders, by mail or otherwise, promptly attended to.

Some of the above Trees are for sale at the store of A. Kaine,  
 No. 35 Exchange street, Boston.

Topsfield, March 27, 1855.

LAKE & CO.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 30, 1855.*

### DEATHS.

In Dorchester on Friday evening, Hon. David Cummins, formerly of Salem, for many years a Judge of the C. C. Pleas, aged 69. Mr. C. was a native of Topsfield, Mass.; he graduated at Dartmouth College; studied law in Salem, where he established himself in the practice of law, and for many years was one of the leading members of the Essex bar, in connection with such men as Pickering and Saltonstall, and for many years probably did the most extensive law business in the county.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 3, 1855.*

### MAY DAY IN TOPSFIELD.

Correspondence of the Mercury.

May day was celebrated by the scholars of the Topsfield Academy, by a social gathering in the evening, at the Academy Hall; and we have seldom seen a collection of handsomer ladies or more gallant gentlemen. Everything was conducted in the most orderly manner reflecting great credit upon the managers, Messrs. G. W. Atherton and J. P. Peabody, and they have for their reward the assurance, that it was a source of unalloyed pleasure to all present. This school was never in a more prosperous condition. The number of scholars this term is 102. The Principal, Rev. J. W. Healy is a model Teacher. We wish him success. The examination is to come off on Wednesday, the 16th inst. A general invitation is given.

S. R.

*Salem Gazette, May 11, 1855.*

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. We have been favored with a catalogue of this institution, which was founded in 1828, and is located in one of the pleasantest towns in Essex County. It contains the names of 77 females and 76 males, as pupils for the Academ-





ical year 1855. The Classical Department numbers 34, and the English 150. The aggregate for the past year was 293, viz: Summer Term, 50; Fall, 69; Winter, 72; Spring, 102. The principal is Joseph W. Healy, who has a strong and numerous corps of assistant teachers.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 15, 1855.*

For the Essex County Mercury.

### TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

Under the successful administration of the present Principal, Rev. J. W. Healey, this school has attained a character which deserves the most decided commendation.

The examination which came off on the 16th inst., was very pleasant and satisfactory. Music has been introduced this term as a regular exercise, under the instruction of J. P. Peabody. Some fine pieces were sung at the examination, which did them great credit. We were much pleased with the class in English Composition. This was a large class, and every question was answered correctly. This class has been under the charge of Mrs. Healey, and has evidently made much progress. The manner in which the parsing class acquitted themselves was with credit to themselves and teacher. The scholars were evidently much attached to their teacher. There was life and energy on the part of both teacher and scholars, which rendered the exercises highly interesting. The presence at the examination of a goodly number of the town was a pleasing evidence of the regard had for the principal and his labors. The summer term commences on the 23d inst.

S. R.

Topsfield, May, 1855.

*Salem Gazette, May 22, 1855.*

☞ The Salem Association of Ministers held a convention at Topsfield on Wednesday, at the Congregational Meeting House. Reports were made on the condition of the churches and on the contributions of Missions, and remarks were offered by Rev. Dr. Worcester of Salem, R. P. Waters, Esq., of Beverly, and others. A sermon was preached in the afternoon, by Rev. Mr. Allen of Marblehead.

*Salem Gazette, June 22, 1855.*

On Friday last, a lad named Joseph Dana Weed, while playing about a car standing at the depot, in Topsfield, accidentally fell and broke his leg. The boy is now doing well.

*Salem Gazette, June 29, 1855.*





THE WEATHER continued comfortably cool till yesterday, and on Sunday we had a very pleasant little rain, commencing at about twelve o'clock; but although the surface of the earth was moistened the drought is unbroken. We hear complaints of it from all parts of the county. In Topsfield it is considered to be as great as was ever known. The inlet and outlet of Hood's pond are perfectly dry,—a circumstance not remembered by "the oldest inhabitant" to have occurred before. Pasturage is short, on account of the drought, but crops are not suffering. The appearances of rot have entirely gone from the potato fields.

We are sorry to learn that the fire which was set in the swamp grounds in Topsfield, Hamilton, and Wenham, known as Bunker's Meadow, is still spreading in the dry peaty ground and among the woods in that region.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 14, 1855.*

A few days ago Messrs. Francis Gould and Hiram Wells, while returning to Topsfield, in a hand car, from some repairs which they had been making on the Newburyport and Georgetown railroad, were seriously bruised by being thrown from the car. The disaster was caused by the accidental dropping of a crowbar from the front of the car, which falling in front of the wheels caused an instant stoppage of the car, causing them to be thrown violently several feet in advance. Fortunately, they both escaped broken bones.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 12, 1855.*

A correspondent in Topsfield complains that some evil disposed persons have poisoned the dogs of Messrs. Pettingill, Milton, Wyatt, and others.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 16, 1855.*

Hay, Oxen, Bull, Cows, Heifers, Farm tools, &c.

The subscriber, having recently purchased the Real Estate owned by ABRAHAM BALCH, in Topsfield, and the Personal Estate upon said premises, will sell at Public Auction, on WEDNESDAY, the 7th day of November next, at 12 o'clock, M., at the aforesaid premises,—

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES, to wit:

About 8 tons English Hay; 15 do. Meadow Hay; 5 do. Salt Hay; a lot of Oat Straw; a lot of Corn Stalks. Also, 2 yoke Oxen; 1 Bull; 6 cows; 5 superior Heifers; 1 Ox Wagon; 2 Carts; 2 Sleds; 1 Iron-Toothed Harrow; 1 Road Scraper or Shovel; and all the Ploughs, Yokes, Iron Bars, Chains, Forks, &c.; upon the said premises.





—Also, at the same time,—

2 four-wheeled Chaise ; 100 to 200 bushels Potatoes ; 50 to 100 do. Corn ; and a variety of other articles.

Conditions made known at the time and place of sale.

JOHN WRIGHT.

Topsfield, Oct. 16, 1855.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 16, 1855.*

### For the Salem Gazette.

**TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.** The semi-annual examination of this Institution took place on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 19 and 20th.

We were present during the entire exercises, all of which were of a high order.

The several classes showed that they had been subject to a judicious and thorough discipline. There are several young men in this Academy, in a course of preparation for College.

The compositions and declamations were excellent. We were peculiarly interested in the spirited and elocutionary declamations of Messrs. Clark, Pierce, Gleason, Putnam and Hardy.

In the evening, the students gave a Levee, which was attended by some 200 students and invited guests.

Judging from the character of the exercises, and the vast number of citizens and other friends of the Institution, we should judge that this school had never a stronger hold upon, or better deserved the sympathy and patronage of its friends, than at present.

And we believe, under the judicious management of its popular Principal, Mr. Healey, it will, as in the past, rank among the first Academies in our States.

AN OBSERVER.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 23, 1855.*

### FARM for Sale.

A FARM pleasantly situated in Topsfield, on the main road leading from Salem to Boxford, about half a mile from the village and railroad depot. Said Farm consists of about seventy acres of land, suitably divided into tillage, mowing, pasture, and meadow land, and a valuable peat meadow ; a two-story house, in good repair, and a barn, 60 by 30 feet, with a cellar under a part of it ; shoemaker's shop, grainery, and other out-buildings. The Farm is fenced with a good stone wall, and contains a variety of fruit trees. There are two wells of water—one at the house, the other at the barn.





Said Farm will be sold on reasonable terms.

For further particulars, inquire of the subscriber, on the premises.

SILAS LAKE.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 5, 1856.*

### Topsfield Tax-Payers.

The following list of tax-payers in Topsfield comprises those who pay a tax of \$20 and upwards. The rate of taxation is 60 cents on \$100. The whole number of polls in the town is 321. Poll tax, \$1.50.

Benj. P. Adams	\$ 37 87
Sam'l Adams	34 33
Sophrone Averill	27 57
Mary Ames	21 19
Abraham Balch	32 56
Dudley Bradstreet	39 08
Perley Balch	29 36
David B. Balch	51 85
J. W. Batchelder	25 28
Wm. Bradstreet, Jr.	30 10
Frederick Boyden	76 34
Wm. Cummings	32 38
Humphrey Clark	27 01
Isaac J. Clapp	20 67
John Cleaveland, N. Y.	33 78
John Dwinell	35 72
Andrew Gould	24 23
J. P. Gould	30 47
Sam'l Gould	38 51
Charles Herrick	113 00
Wm. E. Kimball	25 09
David Lake	21 50
John Lamson	51 68
R. A. Merriam	34 59
Wm. Munday	55 80
Moses Pettengail	44 23
Joel R. Peabody	27 19
Marcia Peabody	20 09
Asa Pingree	248 58
Estate of Jacob Perkins	21 86
Daniel Perkins	25 67
Molly Perkins	29 09
Dudley Perkins	24 97

(To be continued.)





Judith Perkins	\$22 48
David Perkins	24 01
A. S. Peabody	36 69
Richard Phillips, Jr.	23 66
Israel Rea	37 53
Willard Smith	32 78
David Towne	49 72
Benj. B. Towne	33 54
Alfred P. Towne	55 72
Jacob P. Towne	44 83
Wildes C. Bartlett	27 69
Moses Wildes	200 12
Humphrey Wildes	21 50
John Wright	78 55

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 7, 1856.*

### Guardian's Sale.

By order of Probate Court, will be sold at Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 31st day of March inst., at 1 o'clock, P. M., on the premises,

All the right and title that MARY J. TUCKER and ARTHUR R. TUCKER, minors, have in and to one undivided fourth part of all the Real Estate of which JOHN CONANT, late of Topsfield, yeoman, deceased, died seized.

Said estate consists of the Farm, containing about ninety acres of land, with a good dwelling house, barn and other buildings thereon, all in good repair. Said farm being well apportioned into tillage, pasturage, and wood land, the latter having a fine growth of oak and pine wood thereon.

Also, one undivided fourth part of about twelve acres of Pasture Land, situated in Topsfield, near the house of H. B. Perkins.

Also, one undivided fourth part of about ten acres of Meadow, and Wood Land, situated in Ipswich, near the house of Israel Wildes.

Also, the undivided fourth part of two parcels of Salt Marsh, situated in Ipswich—one containing about four acres, the other three acres.

Also, the undivided fourth part of the residue of ten acres of Wood Land, situated in Topsfield.

The sale of the several parcels of the outlands will be at the dwelling-house, after the sale of their portion of the farm.

Conditions made known at the time of sale.

RICHARD TUCKER, Guardian.

(To be continued.)



## MARRIAGES.

- 1911.
- May 18. { Charles H. Langhill (Fitchburg) son of Leonard and Annie  
(Fogo) Langhill.  
Elizabeth McFarland (Topsfield) dau. of William and Mary  
(Girvan) McFarland.
- June 3. { Harry W. Perkins (Topsfield) son of Justin W. and Emma F.  
(Scates) Perkins.  
Elsie V. Tarbox (Sharon) dau. of Horace W. and Lizzie E.  
(Lane) Tarbox.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

- June 7. { (Anthony) Norbury.  
Jane D. Price (Topsfield) dau. of Richard and Mary E. (Palppen)  
Price.
- Aug. 9. { Russell C. Smith (Lawrence) son of William S. and Ma (Blake)  
Smith.  
Elizabeth M. Ferguson (Topsfield) dau. of Edward E. and Mary  
(Andrews) Ferguson.

## FOR THE YEAR 1911.

## BIRTHS.

- 1910.
- Dec. 7. Dorothy Graves, dau. of Fred C. and Jessie M. (Killam) Burnham.
- 1911.
- Jan. 8. ——— son of Malcom N. and Miriam (Tenney) Huse.
- Jan. 29. Alexander, son of Thomas and Maria A. (Spiridiliozzi) Longo.
- Feb. 3. Douglas Cameron, son of John R. and Bertha E. A. (Mellish) Mac-Cormack.
- Mar. 3. Margaret Naomi, dau. of Ottis T. and Abbie N. (Longacre) Martin.
- Mar. 26. Harland E., son of Harland S. and Maude (Fuller) Pierce.
- Apr. 11. Thomas E., son of Thomas A. and Annie V. (O'Donnell) Pierce.
- Apr. 29. Richard Wentworth, son of Ernest H. and Marion W. (Peirce) Pentecost.
- June 2. Muriel Dorothy, dau. of Forrest W. and Alice L. (Perkins) Rust.
- June 3. Ciriaco, son of Pietro A. and Emmanuella (Matteo) DeCissi.
- June 11. ——— dau. of Max and Mildred (Morrill) Scovill.
- July 31. Charles Carey, son of T. Jesse and Edith A. (Smith) Fuller.
- Aug. 3. Margaret E., dau. of Rollin and Sadie M. (Barnes) Winters.
- Aug. 7. Anne, dau. of Thomas L. and Lucy M. (Garbutt) Jenkins.
- Aug. 9. Philomena, dau. of Alphonse and Grazia (Paglia) Roberto.
- Aug. 13. Domenico, son of Antonio and Philomena (Santo-Nicolo) Scoozlio.
- Aug. 27. ——— son of Arthur F. and Leonie A. (Cruchet) Perkins.
- Sept. 8. Florence Marsh, dau. of Eugene M. and Daisy L. (Dow) Dow.
- Sept. 12. Florence Maud, dau. of Harold and Maud A. (Leaper) Keywood.
- Dec. 9. Annie Louise, dau. of Melvin W. and Bessie E. (Welch) Smerage.
- Dec. 21. Virginia Irene, dau. of George P. and Freda M. (Welch) Parlin.





## MARRIAGES.

1911.

- May 18. { Charles H. Langhill, (Fitchburg), son of Leonard and Annie (Fogo) Langhill.  
Elizabeth McFarland (Topsfield), dau. of William and Mary (Girvan) McFarland.
- June 3. { Harry W. Perkins (Topsfield), son of Justin W. and Emma F. (Scates) Perkins.  
Elsie V. Tarbox (Sharon), dau. of Horace W. and Lizzie E. (Lane) Tarbox.
- June 7. { Henry B. Northey (Salem), son of William and Margaret F. (Anthony) Northey.  
Jane B. Price (Topsfield), dau. of Richard and Mary E. (Phippen) Price.
- Aug. 9. { Russell C. Smith (Lawrence), son of William S. and Ida (Blake) Smith.  
Elizabeth M. Ferguson (Topsfield), dau. of Edward E. and Mary (Andrews) Ferguson.
- Aug. 14. { William Scahill (Ipswich), son of Thomas and Cornelia (Senior) Scahill.  
Sadie Campbell (Ipswich), dau. of Jack and Jessie (McDonald) Campbell.
- Aug. 19. { Manuel F. Castle (Topsfield), son of Joseph and Frances (Terrera) Castle.  
Josie MacDougall (Topsfield), dau. of Murdock and Anna (MacKenzie) MacDougall.
- Aug. 28. { Earl L. Brown (Topsfield), son of Clarence L. and Julia M. (Wotton) Brown.  
Gertrude A. Young (Topsfield), dau. of Thomas J. and Almira A. (Bassett) Young.
- Sept. 27. { Horace E. Gibbs (Haverhill), son of Jacob S. and Roancy J. (Rowe) Gibbs.  
Lucy E. Frost (Haverhill), dau. of Leonard F. and Martha J. (Harris) Frost.

## DEATHS.

1911.

- Jan. 10. Amanda D., wife of Edwin S. Clifford and dau. of Benjamin and Hulda (Damon) Pike, aged 72 yrs., 2 mos., 15 days.
- Jan. 19. Hazen Rogers, Jr., son of Hazen R. and Mary E. (Deickhoff) Wildes, aged 10 mos., 7 days.
- Feb. 24. Ann C., (Elliott) widow of Edward Heckman and dau. of Frederick





- Mar. 6. Ann, widow of Stephen J. Palmer and dau. of Orsamus and Eunice (Shattuck) Hodgkins, aged 84 yrs., 7 mos., 14 days.
- May 2. William G. Pray, son of Ruel B. and Caroline E. (Galloup) Pray, aged 47 yrs., 9 mos., 9 days.
- May 14. John Cotter (unknown).
- July 2. Stephen Masury Pierce, son of Thomas and Hannah (——) Pierce, aged 75 yrs., 25 days.
- July 11. Michael O'Connor, Jr., son of Michael and Margaret (Mahoney) O'Connor, aged 56 yrs., 6 mos., 15 days.
- Aug. 14. Eliza Ann, widow of Daniel Willey, and dau. of Jewett and Mary (Perkins) Pingree, aged 76 yrs., 5 mos., 8 days.
- Aug. 28. ———, son of Arthur F. and Leonie A. (Cruchet) Perkins.
- Sept. 16. ———, son of Willard and Anita (Paine) Emery.
- Oct. 26. Lucy Ann Gould, dau. of Josiah and Betsey (Gould) Gould, aged 80 yrs., 7 mos., 10 days.
- Oct. 27. William Buckner Taylor, son of ——— and Martha (Massey) Taylor, aged 71 yrs., 8 mos., 13 days.
- Nov. 4. Richard Ward, son of Alfred A. and Hannah S. (Osborne) Ward, aged 74 yrs., 3 mos., 14 days.
- Dec. 24. Abijah B. Richardson, son of Ezra and Eliza Ann (Wilkins) Richardson, aged 75 yrs., 6 mos., 17 days.
- Dec. 29. ———, son of Joseph Howard and Delia Rose (Baker) Burnett.

## BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1911.

## Deaths in other places, Interment in Topsfield.

1911.

- Feb. 23. Anne Bradstreet, died in Boston, Mass., aged 63 yrs., 11 mos.
- Feb. 25. ——— Bell, died in Georgetown, Mass.
- Mar. 20. Mary E. Wallace, died in Tuftonboro, N. H., aged 69 yrs., 4 days.
- July 1. William A. Small, died in Salem, Mass., aged 72 yrs., 9 mos., 28 days.
- July 23. Darius A. Putnam, died in Worcester, Mass., aged 82 yrs., 4 mos., 23 days.
- Oct. 31. Sarah M. Cotton, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 65 yrs., 8 days.
- Nov. 5. Waldo Dickinson, died in Wenham, Mass., aged 76 yrs., 9 mos., 10 days.
- Feb. 6, 1895. John P. Allen, died in Beverly, Mass., aged 32 yrs., 4 mos., 1 day.

Fred W. Dingle, Central St.; dwelling house.

Albert W. Stevens, Central St.; dwelling house.

1911. Carr, Central St.; dwelling house.

George L. Gould, Washington St.; large enclosed piazza.

William E. Baxter, M. D., River St.; bungalow.

F. L. Smith, River St.; bungalow.

T. L. Jenkins, M. D., Prospect St.; piazza.

Ralph Perkins, High St.; dove cotch.

Pool Peirce barn, South Main St.; taken down.



## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1911.

1911.

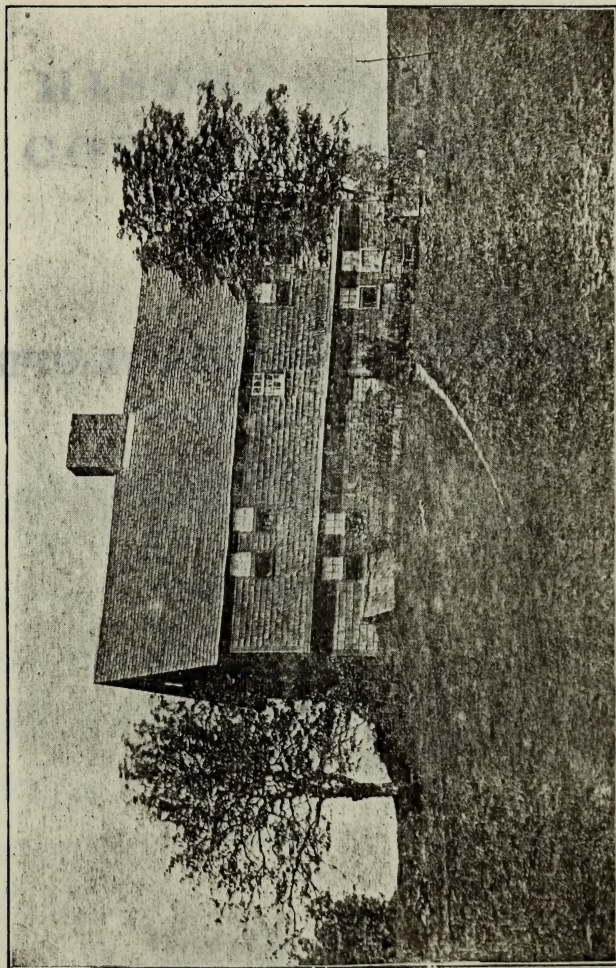
- January. Legislative authority asked by Salem, Beverly and Peabody to take water from the Ipswich river. Much opposition from Topsfield and other towns in the river valley.
- April 24. Barn and storehouse, formerly I. M. Woodbury's piggery, off Haverhill St., belonging to Connolly Brothers, destroyed by fire.
- May 28. Mess. Glidden and Van Valkenburgh, sailing from Lowell, landed from a balloon near the Methodist Church, where they afterwards attended service, it being Sunday morning.
- June 8. Carriage house and shed of Charles F. Jordan, Main St., destroyed by fire. The Methodist Church, about 25 feet distant, much endangered.
- Sept. 19-20. Annual cattle show and fair of the Essex County Agricultural Society held on the grounds of the Society.

## BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1911.

- Fred W. Dingle, Central St.; dwelling-house.
- Albert W. Stevens, Central St.; dwelling-house.
- Everett Carr, Central St.; dwelling-house.
- Charles P. Potter, Central St.; dwelling-house.
- John L. Fiske, Washington St.; garage.
- Charles P. Poor, Main St.; garage.
- James D. Phillips, Hill St.; dwelling-house, garage and pump-house.
- James P. Hale, High St.; garage.
- Elmer B. Thomas, Ipswich St.; dwelling-house, garage and farmer's house.
- James M. Jackson, M. D., Mill St.; garage.
- Oliver Thayer, High St.; dwelling-house remodelled.
- Bradley B. Palmer, Asbury St.; Wildes barn remodelled.
- William Agge, High St.; addition to dwelling-house.
- George L. Gould, Washington St.; large enclosed piazza.
- William E. Baxter, M. D.; River St., bungalow.
- F. L. Smith, River St.; bungalow.
- T. L. Jenkins, M. D., Prospect St.; piazza.
- Ralph Perkins, High St.; dove cotes,
- Pool-Peirce barn, South Main St.; taken down.







THE "PARSON CAPEN" HOUSE.

Frame erected July 8, 1683. The new home of the Topsfield Historical Society.  
From a photograph made in 1900.







THE  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS

OF THE  
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

*Editor*

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VOL. XVIII

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1913

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TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Published by the Society

1913



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HISTORICAL NOTES

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REPORT  
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE  
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1912.  
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Indexed - 40.00 (30 vols)





vi  
House and one acre of land. This was done but no response has been received.

From a considerable collection of family papers preserved by the late J. Perkins Towne, copies have been secured sufficient in amount to fill one or more pages in a volume of our Historical Collections. Many of these papers are of great value.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1912.

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The membership of the society on December 31, 1912, was 242. Eleven new members have been elected and five have died during the year:—Maj. L. A. Abbott of Washington, D. C., Wellington Pool of Wenham, and Mrs. Harriett Fuller, Mrs. Mary S. Perkins and Mrs. Mary L. Nichols of Topsfield. Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Fuller were charter members of the Society.

Three meetings have been held at which papers or addresses have been given by James Duncan Phillips, the President and the Secretary.

Volume 17 of the Historical Collections which was partly in type at the last annual meeting has not been completed although 142 pages have been printed. It is hoped that the printer may complete the volume before many weeks have passed. The principal contributions will be continuations of the Topsfield town records and newspaper items relating to Topsfield, the latter having been brought up to the year 1856.

The receipt in April, of 29 shares of the stock of the United Shoe Machinery Company, the bequest of the late David Cummings of Boston, places our building fund at a respectable figure and at the November meeting of the Society it was voted to offer the sum of \$1500. for the Capen



House and one acre of land. This was done but no response has been received.

From a considerable collection of family papers preserved by the late J. Perkins Towne, copies have been secured sufficient in amount to occupy one hundred or more pages in a volume of our Historical Collections. Many of these papers are of early date and of much historical value.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Secretary.

#### PAYMENTS

Dec. 31, Paid on acct.		
printing Vol. 17. Hist. Colls.	\$104	75
" Engraving	2	00
" Postage, and misc. printing.	5	80
" Roger P. Towne, copying		
Towne MSS.	11	40
		\$123 95
Balance cash on hand Dec. 31, 1912.		129 11
		<u>\$253 06</u>

Jan. 1, 1913. Balance on hand, \$126 11

#### BUILDING FUND

Jan. 1, 1912, Amt. deposited in Salem		
Savings Bank	\$846	20
Apr. 8, " Balance bequest David		
Cummings in cash	36	23
Dec. 31, " Dividends from United Shoe		
Mach. Co., 29 shares stock.	43	50
" " Interest on Bank deposit	35	33
		<u>\$961 26</u>

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Examined and approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,  
ARCHER ANDREWS.





# REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1912

## RECEIPTS

1912

Jan. 1, Balance cash on hand,		\$201 56
Dec. 31, Received from annual dues,	\$42 50	
" " " Hist. Colls. sold,	3 00	
" " " binding,	6 00	51 50
		<hr/>
		\$253 06

## PAYMENTS

Dec. 31, Paid on acct.		
printing Vol. 17. Hist. Colls.	\$104 75	
" Engraving,	2 00	
" Postage, and misc. printing,	5 80	
" Roger P. Towne, copying Towne MSS.	11 40	\$123 95
		<hr/>
Balance cash on hand Dec. 31, 1912,		129 11
		<hr/>
		\$253 06

Jan. 1, 1913, Balance on hand, \$126 11

## BUILDING FUND

Jan. 1, 1912, Amt. deposited in Salem Savings Bank	\$846 20	
Apr. 8, " Balance bequest David Cummings in cash	36 23	
Dec. 31, " Dividends from United Shoe Mach. Co., 29 shares stock,	43 50	
" " Interest on Bank deposit	35 33	
		<hr/>
		\$961 26

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Examined and approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,

ARCHER ANDREWS.





## TOWNE FAMILY PAPERS.

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The late Jacob Perkins Towne, for many years town clerk and church clerk in Topsfield, inherited a considerable collection of manuscripts relating to the Towne family and to local affairs which in turn passed into the possession of his nephew, Edward S. Towne. These manuscripts have been arranged and mounted in two folio volumes by Mr. Towne, and through his courtesy it has been possible to make copies of a selection of the more important papers.

---

### THE LINEAGE OF REV. WILLIAM PERKINS OF TOPSFIELD.

The lineage of George Perkins and Katherine his wife of Abbots Salford in the County of Warwick, yeoman.  
Elizabeth eldest Daughter of Geo. Perkins baptized.  
Beatrice, Daughter of Geo Perkins baptized.  
Joanni, Daughter of Geo Perkins baptized May 14, 1571  
Anne, Daughter of Geo Perkins baptized Feb. 28, 1573  
Thomas, Son of Geo. Perkins baptized Feb. 14, 1576  
William, son of Geo Perkins baptized Jan. 1, 1579  
Frances Daughter of Geo Perkins baptized April 23, 1583.

The Lineage of William Perkins of London merchant taylor by Katherine his first wife married May 22, 1603, which Katherine deceased Sept. 18, 1618  
Bathshua, his first born May 24, 1605  
William, born August 25, 1607  
John Perkins born January 1608  
Toby Perkins born March 1609  
Sarah Perkins born on Low Sunday April 19, 1612.  
Rebeckah Perkins born June 27, 1614.  
Harington born March 30 1615.





And by Mary his second wife daughter of mr. George Purchase of Thaxsted in the County of Essex being married March 30 1619, which Mary deceased Octob 29, 1639, when she had been married 20 years & 7 months.

Harington Perkins born January 22 1619

Edward Perkins born January 18 1622, his fathers sixth son, his mothers sixth child, ergo Edw. the Sixth

Samuel Perkins born June 13, 1624

Elizabeth " " May 15, 1629

Ex autographo charissimi Patris. Manu. Edwardi ibidem nominati Febr. 16 1669-70.

The lineage of William Perkins of Topsfield in New England (Son of William Perkins of London merchant taylor) by Elizabeth Wootton his wife, whom he married at Roxbury Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> 1636

William his first born the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1639, who died the 23<sup>d</sup> of December the same year & had been baptized by Mr Welde of Roxbury.

William Perkins the second son born Feb. 26, 1640, baptized at Roxbury, I being then in England

Elizabeth, my first daughter born at Waymouth June 18, 1643, baptized by mr Newman.

Tobijah Perkins born at Waymouth October 20<sup>th</sup> 1646, baptized by mr Thatcher, I being then the second time in England

Katharine, born at Waymouth October 29, 1648, baptized by mr. Thatcher.

Mary, born at Gloster, Febr. 17, 1651, baptized by my ministry.

John born at Topsfield, April 2<sup>d</sup>, 1655, baptized by mr. Norton, at Ipswich, after Mr. Rogers, his death.

Sarah born at Topsfield March 2<sup>d</sup> 1656-57 baptized by mr Cobbet

Timothy born at Topsfield Aug. 11, 1658, baptized by mr Cobbet

Rebecca born at Topsfield May 4<sup>th</sup> 1662 baptized by mr Hubbard.

John Baker eldest son of mr [John] Baker of Ipswich in New England, May 13, 1667, with consent of parents





on both sides took to wife Katherine my second daughter, the first which the merciful Providence of God, gave me opportunity to be disposed of in marriage. This marriage was accompanied with a daughter, dead born 15 months after their marriage, and with the birth of a second daughter named Elizabeth born the last of march or beginning of April Anno 1670, I being in England, and with a son named John, I being in England after their marriage

William my second son married Elizabeth Clarke daughter to Daniel Clarke of Topsfield, October 24, 1669, with consent of parents on both sides and before my return from England, was blest with a daughter named Elizabeth and, before my return the second time after their marriage with a daughter Mary and a son William at two births.

Elizabeth my eldest and first daughter was by Major Hathorn of and at Salem the last day of May, 1671, married to John Ramsdell of Lynn, with consent of parents on both sides, and had her marriage blest while I was in England with her first daughter named Elizabeth, and after my second return from thence with a second daughter named Mary born the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1574, all which children were baptized. God grant them the baptism of his Spirit also.

Mr Oliver Purchis, September 17, anno 1672 married Mary Perkins my third daughter, the Lord in mercy favour it with his blessing.

Mr John Bradstreet, June 11, 1677 married Sarah Perkins my fourth daughter with the free consent and appointment of his father Symond Bradstreet Esq. by the ministry of his uncle Major General Dennison.

Thomas Fiske, son to Capt. Fiske of Wenham, married Rebeckah Perkins, my fifth and youngest daughter the 3<sup>d</sup> of November 1678 The Lord bless it to us all.

Tobijah Perkins, my second son took to wife Sarah Dennison, the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1680, with the consent of both their parents at Major General Dennison's house. The Lord build them up and provide for the two younger sons also.





HUMPHREY BEANE OF LONDON TO HIS BROTHER IN  
LAW DANIEL CLARKE IN TOPSFIELD  
IN NEW ENGLAND.

London the 27 Ap<sup>l</sup> 1670 "

Brother & Sister Clarke

this cometh by the hand of M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Perkins your neighbour, which I hope will find you with your little ones in health. I send you over [by] John Peirce, five pieces of good Red pennistone and [a] kittle and a barrel of good fine powder, with some other necessarys, the God who sending them to you, I hope will also convey them safe to you. As to your children craveing from beyond your will, I am not therein pleased, but would have them all submit to their parents with all due obedience and would have you so Govern yourself as to be Father over them all in Righteousness. I keep your Son Samuel at school, and Doubt not but he will be a good schollar. I have made provision after my Decease, for you and all yours in New England, and particularly for my nephew Samuel. so living or Dieing you shall as have found me your affectionate Brother.

Humphry Beane

Copied off by Samuel Clarke for his  
Friend M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> of  
Topsfield. AD. March 31, 1721.

CONTRACT TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR WILLIAM PERKINS.

Thease preasents witneseth y<sup>t</sup> J Joseph Hale of Newbury in y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex in New England doe bind my self my Heyers Executors or Administrators, to Heugh frame and seat up, and doe all y<sup>e</sup> Carpenters woorke of a House of : 25 : foot Long and : 20 : foot wide and 14 foot stud, for william Pearkins of Topsfield in y<sup>e</sup> above sd County at or be fore y<sup>e</sup> first of march next Insueing y<sup>e</sup> date heare of y<sup>e</sup> woork is to be compleatly finished, & y<sup>e</sup> above sd william Pearkins doe like so In gage my self my heyers or Executors, to provid for y<sup>e</sup> above sd Joseph hale meat drink and Lodging all y<sup>e</sup> time y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> above sd woork





is doing, and Likewise to bring all y<sup>e</sup> Tymber into Place y<sup>t</sup> is needfull for y<sup>e</sup> building and to provide futch as thall be futable for y<sup>e</sup> fame, and Likewise to provide Boards fhingles and nailes futable for y<sup>e</sup> woorke, In Confideration of Twenty feaven Poundes web y<sup>e</sup> above fd william pear-eins have Given bill for y<sup>e</sup> payment of, and to y<sup>e</sup> suere performance of what is above written I the above fd Joseph Hale doe feat to my hand and feale this : 16 : of march : 1691 The poasts are to be split and studs and Joyst sawd

Sealed and delivered in y<sup>e</sup>  
preasents of : witneses

William Perkins [seal]  
Joseph Hale

John How

Philip Goodridge

CAPT. JOHN GOULD, ET AL., TO LIEUT. ANTHONY  
BRACKET.

Topsfield, <sup>th</sup> october 1695

Lieut Anthony Bracket

Sir after our Respects prsented to y<sup>e</sup> this is to Informe y<sup>e</sup> how it has fell out that John perkins has staid longer then y<sup>e</sup> time y<sup>e</sup> did apoint him, his father is very elle and lyse at y<sup>e</sup> piont of death, and I did tell him I did beleve y<sup>e</sup> were so much of a Ingenas man that in such a case y<sup>e</sup> would not take noe advantige of him nor take noe for-fite of him in such a case as this is, and I did pefwaid him to stay a day or two longer and did pefume to say I would itand and have him have Lese as y<sup>e</sup> provedance of God was in residing of his father. I pray blame him not but impute it to y<sup>r</sup> firind and fervant who will pay y<sup>e</sup> and if y<sup>e</sup> see good to aske any thing when I speeke with y<sup>e</sup> fir the humbell petition of your frinds the Commitee of malitia of Topsfeild is that y<sup>e</sup> would be plased to give John perkinns firtifackat how long he has served under y<sup>r</sup> Command and lett him retorne againe forth with and next Monday theire is one lustey man apionted to come and serve in his rome he has a famely and can not at prsent leave his faimeley fir I pray grant our request if his father did not lye evene at y<sup>e</sup> piont of death we should not a requested such athing, fir wee were not willing to detaine him any longer thoe y<sup>e</sup> case is verey hard for him





to Come not knowing when he will see his father alive againe, so not troubling y<sup>e</sup> any s<sup>r</sup>der at p<sup>e</sup>sent putting Confidence in y<sup>e</sup> that y<sup>e</sup> will not denie our request as y<sup>e</sup> Case is ever rest and remaine y<sup>r</sup> ever oblidge ffrinds & sarvants.

John Gould Cap<sup>t</sup>  
Thomas Baker Leut  
Ephraim Dorman En<sup>s</sup>

THOMAS AVERILL TO RICHARD CARR.

from Nechewarnick october y<sup>e</sup> 17—1695

fir pray Deliver to y<sup>e</sup> barrer hereof John pirkins by name some money for I have hurt one of my legs very badly and I being from home do want some money to pay for y<sup>e</sup> Cuer of my leg. In so doing I shall Rest yours to serve In what I may

To M<sup>r</sup> Richard Carr

Thomas Averill

Liveing in falfbury

Deliver with speed

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOSIAH GOODRIDGE AND

JOHN PERKINS.

This may Satisfy whome it may Concarne Articalls of A gremant be twene Josiah Gutredg one the one part and m<sup>r</sup> John perkins one the other part: viz the said Gutredg doth ingage to go to the eastward and to Relac the said perkinsis brother—wilyam perkins: and to enter in his Room for three months: and at the end of three months the said John perkins doth ingage to releas the said Gutredg one the paneltty of twalve panc a day: and the said John perkins doth ingage to paye to the said Gutredg at the end of three months twanty five shilens A month for all the three months and the said perkins is to have the Cuntry wages: and no advantidg is to be tacen for the failuer of a Relac for too or thre dais the pay is to be in cloth at mony p<sup>r</sup>ic: and the twalve panc a day beside Cuntry wages after the three months is out.

Dat y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1696/7

Witnessis

John How

Thomas Parley secunde

John Perkins

Josiah Goodridge





## HANNAH PERKINS TO MISS MOLLY PERKINS.

Loving Cousin I take this time to write a few words to you to let you know that I am well both in body and mind, and I hope these few unworthy lines will find you well also, I have got some good news to write to you, for it has pleased God to give me a good hope through grace and not me only but many others in these parts and we hear from many other places that religion spreads we heard from Chelsea about three weeks ago and there was a reformation there Cousin Huldah and one of her daughters about eleven years old were converted and I hope to hear that there is a reformation in the parts where you live. We read in the Scripture that the hour Cometh and now is that the dead shall hear the voyce of the son of god and they that hear shall live. I want to see you more than ever I did since I heard that you have known the resurrection power of Jesus in your soul. We live very happy lately for all denominations here meet together two or three times a week to worship God. May the God of peace rule in your heart and lead you into all truth is the sincere desire of your friend and well wisher

Hannah Perkins

Unity, March the 17th 1799.

N. B. Write to me as often as you have an opportunity.

[To] Miss Molly Perkins, Topsfield.

---

march 15 <sup>th</sup> 1730 or 31 Jacob Robinson Dr	
to boarding 2 Carpenters Robard Bradford &	
John Curtis five weeks & two Days at	
8 <sup>s</sup> per week	02—02— 8
May 10 to 50 pounds of veal at five pence	
per pound	01—00—10
to 28 pounds of pork at 10 <sup>d</sup> per pound	01—03— 4
to 11 pounds of pork at 12 <sup>d</sup> per pound	00—11— 0
to 12 pounds of butter at 11 <sup>d</sup> per pound	00—14—00
to 1 bushel of beans at 6—6 <sup>d</sup> per bus <sup>l</sup>	00—06— 6
	<hr/>
	05—18— 4





## MILITARY COMMISSIONS TO BENJAMIN TOWNE.

Gov. Jonathan Belcher appointed "Benjamin Towne Gentleman to be Ensign of the Military Company in Topsfield whereof Ivory Hovey is Captain in the Regiment of Militia within the County of Essex whereof John Wainwright Esq. is Colonel."

Dated Sept. 22, 1738.

Gov. J. Belcher appointed Benjamin Town, Gentleman, Lieutenant of the Foot Company of Militia within the Town of Topsfield under Captain John Wildes in third Regiment \* \* \* whereof Thomas Berry is Colonel.

Dated May 7, 1740.

Gov. William Shirley appointed Benjamin Town, Gentleman, to be Lieutenant of the Foot Company in the Town of Topsfield under John Wildes, Captain, in third Regiment \* \* \* whereof Thomas Berry is Colonel.

Dated Dec. 17, 1743.

Gov. Spencer Phips appointed Benjamin Towne, Gentleman, to be Captain, etc.

Dated March 24, 1751.

## THOMAS ROBINSON TO JACOB TOWNE.

Coalrain March ye 30 1749

Mr Jacob Towne Sir my Sarvice to you Hopeing you are well as I am my Self I Had News that Samuel Curtis is Come Down to be publifhed and if he is I Wode Have you Send me word as Soon as you can if He is Down or if He ante Send me Word Whot He Seafe about you no What So no more at present but I remain your Humble Sarvant to Same

Thomas Robinson

To Mr Jacob Towne at Topsfield with Care

## MILITARY FORMATION IN 1752.

Ranks to the Right Double fils to the Right Double  
Rear half fils face to the Right about and March 6





paces and Counter march and Double your front In tiar makes y<sup>e</sup> 3

Ranks to the Right Double fils to the Right Double makes the 4

front half fils Counter march on the ground you stand and Double your Rear In tiar and you are Reduced

Ranks to the Right Double fils to the Right Double makes the 2 men file Leaders

Rear half fils face to the Right about march 6 paces and Countermarch and double your front In tiar

Wheel front and Rear in to the midst

then wheal the right and Left flank in to the midst

half Rank of the Right flank Double your Left flank in tiar

then front half fils Double your rear in Tiar

Half rank of the Left flank Double your Right flank

Rear half fils face To the Right about & march six paces and Countermarch and Double your front to the Right of your file Leaders

Every other file begining with the Right hand file advance your armes and march 6 paces and Countermarch and Double your Reear In tiar

then Every other Rank from the front Double your Left flank In tiar

then wheel front and Rear in to the midst.

Benjamin Towne.

Topsfield, May the 20 Day, 1752

THOMAS PERKINS TO JACOB PERKINS.

Arundel Novem<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1753.

Brother I have waited a great while for you to make up betwen us and you have not done it, and I now send to you once more and I entreet you as a Brother & frind to your self to send Somebody to do it betwen this and the first of Dec<sup>r</sup> next or I will send a writ to you with out fail. I wrote to you laft I wold take anything for what was due but never heard a word from you, I am veary sorrey you put me and your self to trouble, but it is your own folt, and I do defier the wellfare of you & youres as





well as I do my owne. I hope you are all well. Dont fail of sending Down to me, my love to you and yours & to all frinds.

Thomas Perkins.

[To] Jacob Perkins.

COL. THOMAS BERRY TO CAPT. BENJ. TOWNE.

Sir

I wrote a Month agoe about the Militia of your Renewing your Commisfion, which you have not been pleased to take Notice of, which I must Look upon as a great Contempt, and an abuse of the Favour of Respect which has been Shown you

By your Friend

Tho<sup>s</sup> Berry

Ipswich April 2<sup>d</sup> 1754

To Cap<sup>n</sup> Benj<sup>a</sup> Town  
In Topsfeild.

JOSEPH PERKINS TO JACOB PERKINS.

honred father and mother my Duty To you and Love to my Brothers and Sisters hoping that these few Lins will find you in good health as they Leave me Blefsed be God for the Same our frinds are all Well at Present we are at hadlye at Present and Expect to goe from here in a little Time. Remember me to all That ask after me so I ad no more at Present But Desier your Prayers To God for me so I Remain your Dutfly son Tell Dath

Joseph Perkins

Hadlye the 1 Day 1758

To Mr Jacob Perkins

In Topsfield with Care and Speed

EPHRAIM TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Danvarse August y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1758

To you my Loving Brother I send these few Loins to you Hoping that they will find you in good Health as they left me and mine Thro the goodnes of God and Having an oppertunity to sen these Loines to you I gladly im-





braft it. hoping you will do the same and to inform you that i have nothing Remarkable to send to you but To inform you that your Friends are in good health and that it is a general time of Health amongst us and I Do Lement the Lementtable Defeat that I Hear that our army met with of Lait Hopin that god will yet Smile upon our New England forefes and blefs and Prosper them in all their Lawful undertaking and to you my Loving Brother I send Counseling you to put your trust and Confidence In that god which is able and willing to save all those that put Their trust in him and I will yet Continue my earnest prayers to god For your and the Rest of my Brothers safe Return in Gods time, and I would Desire to be Remembered to the Rest of my Brothers and your Sifter Sarah my wife also Defires be Remembered to you and the Rest of her Brothers and to inform you that our Sifter is Removed from Fathers into andover and so no more at present but to Subscribe myself your Loving Brother

Ephraim Towne

To Mr Jacob Towne att Fort Edward In Cap Israel Daveses Company at the west ward Deliver this with Care

[Written on the corner of the sheet] and I the subscriber also Do Desire to be Remembered to you and to the Rest of my friends and in Peticaler to Cap Israel Herick if you can find out who I Bee

#### JACOB TOWNE'S DISCHARGE.

By Order of Col<sup>l</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Bradstreet D. Q. M. G.

I do hereby Discharge Jacob Town from Cap Davis's Comp<sup>p</sup> of Battoemen he being not fitt for Service given Under my Hand Octob<sup>r</sup> 27, 1758

Dan<sup>l</sup> D'Normandie

#### JACOB TOWNE TO CAPT. BENJAMIN TOWNE.

Ever Honoured father and Mother our Duty to you and Love to all our brothers and sisters Hoping that these fue Lynds will find you in good Health as thay Leav us in blesed be God for it brother Ezra hath ben sick





with the throat Distemper and He is got somthing betor and Doctor said that the best thing that Can be Don for Him is for sum of His frinds to Com and bring Him Home for if He should Citch Cold He might not ever Return Home and He Desired sum of His brothers to Come and bring Him Home. I sūpose that He will be on the Road a Coming Home as fast as He Can and I Hope that we shall not tarrey Heare above fourteen or fifteen Days Longer The Men of Topsfield that are in our Company are well. Jabesh Towne is Dead and Dudley perkins. We Desire to be Remembered to all our frinds fo no more att present but we Remain your Dutifull sons untill Dearth

Lake george october the 10 AD 1758

Edmond and I Remember

Jacob Towne

our Love to Debbe

Edmond Towne

To Captin Benjamin Towne Living in Topsfield

Delivor with Care and Speed

#### BENJAMIN TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Ever Loving Brother after my Love to you hop<sup>ing</sup> These fue Lines will find you in good helth I have had a Long Spell of weekness this Spring I was not able to do any work for seven week but throw the Goodness of God I am got beter my famely have been very pour this spring you sent me a leter in which you tould me that you had taken up the bond at Mr peals and say he demands twelve on the hundred send me word whether you pay so much and I would pray you to sever me from that note and you will oblige me. Give my Duty to father and mother and Love to all my Brothers Aand Sisters

So no more at present but I Remain your Loving Brother until Dearth

May y<sup>d</sup> 29 ad 1759

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Sturbridge

The note is one pound eleven shilens & fouer pence Due you tender him the money and demand the note before witnesses or do that which father shall think best. I would have you come up this fall.

[To] Mr Jacob Towne Topsfield.





## JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO MRS. HANNAH PERKINS.

Honoured Mother these few lines are to Let you Know that we are all a little about house at present Blessed be God for it and we hope to hear that you and all our frinds are well and we give our Duty to you and our Love to all our Brothers and sisters and our Love to Andrew and Joseph Remembers his Love to andrew and Mehetibel Remembers her Love to Andrew and I take this opportunity to let you know that I want to know whether you Intends to send your son Abel up to live with me for if you do I should be glad to know it as quick as Conveantly I can and I will do by him as we tolked of when I saw you our Jacob hath got a sore head and your Daughter is of the mind that he wantes sum small cordil of his grame before it will git well and if you will be pleasd to send sum present your Daughter will take it very thankful at your hands and so shall I and we would inform our sister Lydia Chapman that we Received her Letter by the hand of Mr Richard Cree and if she sends us any other Letter we would have her git sum Comon Riter to Rite it for we are not skild in such high flown Riting and we would Informe you that it is a time of helth amongst us at present and if sisters Chapman or Luse will come up and stay with us a little while and cannot git them a horse to Ride up on I will send down one for them if they will send word by the Barer hereof so no moor at present but we Remain your Dutiful Children until Death part us

Dated at Douglass December y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1761

Joseph Cummings  
Abigail Cummings

for Mrs Hannah perkins  
Living in Topsfield

## JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO WIDOW LYDIA CHAPMAN.

Dear Sister

With an Effictionent Love Still Remaining in us Toards you Causes us to Right to you hoping these Lines will find you in health as they Leave us and our famely through





the Procet<sup>n</sup> of Divine Providence I Depend upon your  
Coming up to See us the Latter End of Sep<sup>t</sup> or the Be-  
gine:g of Oct. at furtlest: we got home Verey well the  
2<sup>d</sup> Day we Came away from Topsfield give my Duty to  
Mother and my Love in Pertickerly to andrew and to all  
my Brothers and Sisters We Reed the Letter that Joseph  
sent us Sep<sup>t</sup> the 15<sup>th</sup> Baring Date Aug<sup>t</sup> the 30<sup>th</sup> which we  
are obliged to him for Righting: and time and Paper Be-  
ing So verey Sekars obliges us to omitt Send him an  
Answer at this time.

Joseph Cummings  
Abigail Cummings

Douglass, Sep<sup>t</sup> the 15<sup>th</sup> 1762

P. S. Mehetabel Remembers her Love to Andrew  
[To] the Widow Lydia  
Chapman in Topsfield

PROVERBS COPIED FROM THE BACK OF A SHIP'S  
MANIFEST.

Inwards  
Port of Salem  
New-England

} In the Brigantine Epes, Plant<sup>a</sup> built,  
registered at Boston 30 July 1765,  
Property all British, about 95  
tons burthen, no guns, navigated  
with 3 Men, all British, besides  
James Babson Master for this pres-  
ent Voyage from St Eustatia &  
Turks island.

Custom-House, 15 Day of April, 1766

James Babson

Sworn before

John Fisher

Coll<sup>r</sup>

As you brew so shall you bake  
A burnt child dreads the fire  
A cat may look upon a king  
A fools bolt is soon shot  
All goes down gutter lane  
As wise as a man of Gotham





All is well that ends well  
A rolling stone gathers no moss  
An old dog will learn no tricks  
After sweet meat comes sour sauce  
A lark is better than a kite  
As good as George of Green\*  
Better pay at small game than stand  
Brag is a good dog, but hold fast is a better  
Birds of a feather flock together  
Charity begins at home  
Cut your coat according to the cloth  
Cursed cows have short horns  
Every bean has its black  
Every man thinks his geese swans  
Fat paunches make lean pates  
Fast bind, fast find  
Faint heart never won fair lady  
Give him a Roland for his Oliver  
Give a man luck and throw him into the sea.  
Good wine needs no bush.  
He who has a mind to beat a dog, will easily find a stick.  
He that reckons without his host must reckon again  
He steals a goose and gives a gibbet in alms.  
He looks one way and rows another.  
He makes a rod for his own breech  
Haste makes waste.  
He sets the fox to keep his geese.  
He that would live at peace & rest, must hear & see &  
say the best.  
Hungry dogs will eat dirty pudding.  
Hunger's the best Sauce  
Harm watch, harm catch.  
It is an ill wind that blows nobody good.  
It is good to make hay while the sun shines.  
If you trust before you try, you may repent before you  
die.  
It is a good horse that never stumbles.  
Its neither rhyme nor reason.

\*This George of Green was that famous diver of Wakefield who fought with Robin Hood and little John and got the better of both of them, as the old ballad tells us.





I talk of chalk and you of cheese  
Jack will never make a gentleman  
Little pitchers have big ears  
Like father, like son  
Much falls between the cup & the lip  
Many hands make light work  
Money makes the mare go  
Many talk of Robin Hood who never shot his bow  
Many words will not fill a bushel  
Nothing venture nothing have  
Need makes the old wife trot  
No longer pipe, no longer dance  
Near is my shirt but nearer my skin  
One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush  
Out of the frying pan into the fire  
One scabbed sheep mars the whole flock.  
One man had better steal a horse, than another to look  
over the hedge.  
One swallow does not make summer.  
One good turn deserves another  
Penny wise and pound foolish  
Reckon not your chickens before they are hatched  
Robin Hood's pennyworth, lightly come, lightly go.  
Sue a beggar and catch a louse.  
Save a thief from hanging & he will cut your throat.  
'Tis too late to spare when all is spent  
The more haste the worse speed  
To cut large thongs out of another man's leather  
Too much of one thing is good for nothing  
The Tracey's have always the wind in their faces  
The younger brother the better gentleman.  
Tread on a worm & it will turn  
The receiver is as bad as the thief.  
Virtue which parleys is near a surrender.  
Well begun is half ended  
When vice goes before vengeance follows after  
When the stud's stolen shut the stable door  
What can we have of a cat but the skin?  
What is bred in the bone will never be out of the flesh.





Toppsfield october the 8 A.D. 1766 these may Certifie all persons whome it may Concern that Jacob Towne hath paid sufficient beveridge for making a Lite blue Coat and Jackit Lind with tamme stuf and blue Horn buttons which he nows wars as witness my Hand

Joseph Hobbs

RICHARD KIMBALL TO JOSEPH KIMBALL.

Cousin Jacob Kimball After due servis to you & yours I would Inform you that I am under very poor surcumstances on account of my helth for ten Days past I have not had but Little rest night nor day that which I Labour under is Called Rumitics I am Seased in my hip & thy & nie Leg & ancle y<sup>e</sup> greatese pain is in hip & ancle Sr I Have heard that m<sup>r</sup> Jacob Town that Lives near you has Skill in Such Disorders I pray you to go to him your Self & get Sumthing from him for that purpose if you get anything pray Rite how it must be used fail not for I am in great distrefs in so Doing you will Oblidge your poor uncle - - - Richard Kimball.

Boxford, August 1767.

To M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Kimball of Toppsfield

JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO JOHN BATCHELDER.

Ever Honoured Father and mother. after our Duty to you Hopeing that these few Lines will find you in as good Health as they Leave us at present Bleffed Be god for the Same, we Have nothing Strange to write to you. It is a Time of Health among us at Present we would inform you that we are as we Hope we shall Have a minifter in a Little time settled In this place His name is Fitch & we Have given Him a Call But He has Not as yet gave his Answer I would Inform you that I Have Bought a farm & Have got a House Raifd on it, I Desire you would send up a Letter to Let us know How you Do For we Have Heard that Father is very poorly and weakly. Remember us to all our Friends, and to all that ask after us, we should Be very glad If Some of our Brothers would Come up and see us, and If they want Land Cheap and





Have a mind to buy Now is the time to Have it so, Land  
that will make a good farm,

And So No more at present But we Remain your Dutiful  
Children Till Death.

Douglass, November

23—1768

[To] John Batcheller

Joseph Cummings

Abigail Cummings

#### JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO JOHN BATCHELDER.

Ever Honoured father and Mother. After our Duty  
to you, Hoping that these few lines will find you in as  
good Health as they leave us at present, Blessed be God  
for the Same. I would inform you that our family is  
well And it is a general Time of Health among us we  
met with a Bad Loss Last December our Cow by an acci-  
dent at m<sup>r</sup> Goulds she Died in a Cart Wheel I would  
Have you send us up a Letter when Zaccus or John  
Gould shall will come up which will Be soon, to Let us  
know How all our friends Do. Remember us to all our  
friends I would Be very glad if Some of my Brothers  
would Come up and Carry mehitabel Down for she wants  
to Come Down to Live for we are so poor and Low and  
Loosing our Cow that we shall find it Hard to maintain  
all our family and if any of my Brothers will Come up  
this Spring they Shall Have Her one year or While She  
is 18 years old I would Have you send word up By the  
Goulds whether any of you will come up or no. & So no  
more at present But we Remain Your Dutiful Children  
till Death

Douglass march 22<sup>d</sup> 1770

[To] John Batcheller.

Joseph Cummings

Abigail Cummings

#### JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO WIDOW HANNAH BATCHELLER.

Ever Honoured Mother.

After Our Duty to you & love to Brothers & Sisters  
Hoping these few lines will find you in as good health as  
they leave us at present Blessed be God for the Same I  
would Inform you that we got Home well But found  
Amos very lame of a Cut in his knee which was cut the





Tuesday before I got home he Had a very bad Sore and is not got Quite well yet tho he Begins to get about again The Rest of our family is well the Childrend Send Duty to you & love to their Uncles and Aunts I do Intend to Come Down the last of may If nothing happens to me more than I know of it is a general Time of Health among us & so no more at present But we Remain your Dutifull Children till Death

Joseph and Abigail Cummings

Douglafs April 10<sup>th</sup> 1775

[To] Widow Hannah Batcheller, Topsfield

WILLIAM ROGERS TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Cambridge May <sup>th</sup>11 1775

Loving Brother and Sister thes Lines com to Inform you that I am well and all with me thanks be given to God for it Hoping you are well I Sente my horse to your house and I pray you to Let Lu<sup>th</sup> John Noyes have him to Ride hom for he is my offer and a man of honor, and if my Horse is not with you pray Let him have yours to Ride to his hous and you may Depend that he will not Rong your horse and do not fail him for he is going to in Lift more men for me and I wold Right more to you but time fails me from your Louing Brother

William Rogers

N. B. the Berer of this Leter to have the horse.  
To Mr Joseph Towne in Topsfield

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Lost yesterday By me the subscriber in Ipswich A Red-ish Coulered Coat it is Something fadeed and is full Trim<sup>d</sup> with Moehair Buttons two of the Buttons is wore of upon the fore parts and one upon each Sleeve whofoever will inform me where I may have it Shall Be reward-ed for their trouble By me

Nathaniel Averill Jun

Topsfield may the  
27<sup>th</sup> 1775





EDMUND QUINCY TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Stoughtonham June 8<sup>th</sup> 1775

Mr Joseph Towne

Dr Sir.

I fould have Seen you long ere this time but the perplexities of the times have yet prevented me. this will will be deliverd you by Cap<sup>t</sup> John Stayley Blackwell who is the miner you have heard Mr Buntin and my Self so often speak of, he Comes down to Topsfeild to see the mines, and Examine them, therefore should be glad you would give him all the Afistance in your Power to get the Water out, and let him Examine the mine throughly you will treat him properly on my Account and you must not take him by his Drefs, as the Times makes it necessary he is a Gentleman tho he appears in this Drefs, and I should be Glad that his coming down to Examine the Mine you will keep as much to your Selves as you can notwithstanding the Times are very hard I determine to Carry on the Mine as soon as possible Hands may be Got, that I can depend on, I design to See you at Topsfeild as soon as I can, my Regards to your Wife & Children and all enquiring Freinds and Remain

Your sincere Freind &  
Well Wif her

Edm. Quincy.\*

To Mr Joseph Towne

in his Absence to Mr Jacob Towne in Topsfeild

---

Cred to Mr Edmund Quincy Esq<sup>s</sup> by Cash £ m for Labor in Droing the wat<sup>r</sup> oute of the mine

Nov<sup>r</sup> 21: 1776 Cred<sup>t</sup> to Mr Edmund Quincy Esq<sup>r</sup> for the Labor Don in the mine by my Self and Elisah in June 8, 1776

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Topsfield July ye 15, 1776

Rec<sup>d</sup> of m<sup>r</sup> Samuel Perkins the Sum of Six Pounds thirteen Shilling and fouer pence in full for hafe a turne in the Emrican Service.





Topsfield August

Steph<sup>n</sup> Perkins Cap<sup>t</sup>

22<sup>d</sup> 1777

Topsfield August 23<sup>d</sup> 1777

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Zebulun Perkins fifteen pounds as a fine for not Serving as a Soldier in the Contenantel army for Eight months when Drafted therefor.

Steph<sup>n</sup> Perkins

EDMUND QUINCY TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Stoughtonham March 7<sup>th</sup>: 1777

Dear Sir

I just now received a Letter from you by Mr Israel Freeman who says he is willing to undertake to separate the ore that is got up and I am content he should if you like it I have told him that He may go and make Tryal of what he can do with the different parts of the Ore, that that lays upermost must be a good deal Sun burnt but that underneath will yield well, let him try the different parts and then we will come to some agreement with Him. Mr Guild and I have appointed Several times to Come to Topsfeild but we have got an Order from the General to make a Quantity of Warlike Stores at our Furnace which has kept us much Confind but as soon as the weather will permit we f hall Sett off from home and hope to see you very soon

My Son got home a Month ago after 4 month miserable hard usage has been very Ill since he Came home, but has now got better. my hearty Regards to your Wife and Daughter and to your Brother hoping this will find you all well and to all inquiring Freinds I remain

Y<sup>r</sup> sincere Freind & well wif her

Edm. Quincy

To Mr Joseph Towne

In Topsfeild

p<sup>r</sup> Mr Israel Freeman





## JANE PERKINS TO MRS. HANNAH BATCHELDER.

Honred mother I give my Dutey to you hoping these  
 Lyns will find you in Helth as they Leve me at present  
 Confidering my furcomfance at this Time I Do hereby  
 Inform you that my Husband is in the army at the west-  
 tord and since he went from me it has plefd God who is  
 the orther of our Beinges and has an uncontroulebel Right  
 To give and Take away at his sovrend will and Plafuer  
 our most Nearest Company in this world and he has Taken  
 all my Children away from me By Deth and I am Left  
 Childless at this Time But Desier your Praing for me  
 also Give my Respects to all Inquiring frends so no  
 more at present But I Remain your Dutefull Child Tell  
 Deth

The Janey Perkins

Rindg Augst y<sup>e</sup> 25 1777  
 To M<sup>rs</sup> Hannar Batchelder in Topsfield

Topsfield November 27 Ad 1780 Deliverd to Jacob  
 Towne Eight pare of stockings for the use of the Army  
 Topsfield March 16 Ad 1781 Received in full for the  
 stockings of Jacob Towne I say Received by me 8.00  
 Dolars

Elisbeth Emersen

## SAMUEL HARRIS TO JACOB TOWNE.

To Mr Jacob Towns & his Wife

As an Opportunity now presents, we most cheerfully  
 embrace it to transmit these Lines to you, thereby both to  
 testify our regard for & Friendship to you, & to acquaint  
 you that we, through the goodness of the universal Ben-  
 efactor of Mankind, are blessed with Health & the Nec-  
 essaries & many of the comforts of Life, unfeignedly  
 wishing these Lines may find you in the enjoyment of the  
 same Blessings. we should be very glad to see you here,  
 & if you would take your Horse & ride to Hopkinton &  
 see us it would afford us no small pleasure. we should be





glad also if you would write a Letter to us & leave it at m<sup>r</sup> Clark's directly, that it may be brought by the Bearer hereof our Children give their regards to you so no more at this time from your Friends & well-wishers till Death

Samuel Harris

Abigail Harris

Hopkinton July 27, 1780

Brother Webber & his Sister wifh to be remembered to you

Topsfield July 16<sup>th</sup> 1781

Recieved of M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Towne Eleven pound four Shillings and five pence his Quota towards hiring a Man for the Contin<sup>l</sup> army

Thomas Porter

Saturday 23<sup>d</sup> of November 1782

Jacob Towne of Topsfield Came to me and Informed me that his Brother William Perkins Departed this Life on Fryday so late that he Could not git prepared to bury him on Saturday and as the weather was warm it would be difficult to keep him till Monday, and defired me to grant him Liberty to bury his said Brother on the Lord's day

for these Reafons Licence is hereby granted to the Said Jacob Towne to Solemnize the funeral of the said William Perkins on Lords day Evening tomorrow, after the Exerfises of the Public worfhip of God is over

Topsfield Nov<sup>r</sup> 23, 1782.

By me Sam<sup>l</sup> Smith Just<sup>c</sup> of Peace.

SAMUEL SPOFFORD TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Sir being Informed that you Intend Marrage to Mifs Patty Baker and have been publifhed to her as I have been before you but it is a matter Immeterial to me Notwithstanding I ftill have the best Right to her but if you will be fo kind as to meet me at Major Parles and be fo





generous as to make me an offer what you will give or take and the Party that takes shall Drop the whole affare and Never trouble the other more but if you will not meet me at that place and Settle the matter you may Relie upon it that I shall Proceed and Shall Still be a thorn in your Side, but if you will Come we will Settle matters with out any troble I shall Depend upon your Sending me answér what you will Do and In So Doing you will much Oblige your humble Servent

Samuel Spofford\*

Rowley March y<sup>e</sup> 1: 1784  
To Mr Joseph Towne.

#### PETITION OF JACOB TOWNE AND OTHERS.

Commonwealth of Mafsachufetts To the Honorable the Senate and Houfe of Representatives, in General Court afsembled.

The Petition of Jacob Towne of Topsfield, & others, humbly shews That in march anno Domini 1781 your petitioners were clafsed by the selectmen of Topsfield to procure a man to serve three years in the Continental army, agreeable to a refolve of the General Court of the Commonwealth; and Thomas Porter was appointed the head of our s<sup>d</sup> Clafs. at our first Clafs meeting s<sup>d</sup> Porter told the s<sup>d</sup> Clafs it was not best to be in too great hafte to procure a man, that he the s<sup>d</sup> Porter would Clear the s<sup>d</sup> Clafs for three hundred hard Dollars; which promise of s<sup>d</sup> Porter satisfiéd the Class, and was the sole reason that they then delayed procuring a man for the aforesaid service after a month or two had elapsed s<sup>d</sup> Porter told the s<sup>d</sup> Clafs He had procured them a man for the three years service, but they must give him the s<sup>d</sup> Porter four hundred hard Dollars, for the men must be had, and were very hard to be found accordingly the Clafs, rather than be deficient in their duty, and their Country suffer by their neglect, Complied with his extravagant demands, and all the money was advanced, or security given for the same on interest by the middle of July 1781. From thence your Petitioners were led to conclude, they were not be-

\*Martha Baker and Joseph Towne were married at Andover, Mar. 11, 1784.





hind the rest of their fellow subjects in exerting themselves & promoting their Countrys defence, but to their surprize and great disappointment they find their exertions were dormant, their Country injured, while their money was applied to private emoluments, and themselves liable to a penalty for deficiency, which is imputable to the wilful neglect of the aforesaid Porter only. wherefore your petitioners would approach your Honours, as the guardians of the rights & the protectors of the property of the subject, as men formed for the extirpation of fraud, & Iniquity, and to promote justice, honesty and virtue of every kind, and pray that your Honours in your wisdom, would grant your Petitioners, that the sd Porter refund to them their proportion of Thirty-four Pounds seven shillings with interest for the same, which the aforesaid Claſs paid the s<sup>d</sup> Porter, on July aforesaid (more than the average price) and for the purpose aforesaid, and they in duty bound will ever pray.

Topsfield January, 1782.

Jacob Towne

John Cree 3<sup>d</sup>

Thos Perkins

Zeblun Perkins

#### EZRA TOWNE TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Loving Brothers I hope Throue The Devine goodnes of God you and yours are in helth all Tho I am in a pore Stat of helth and have bin so for sum Time not able to Do aney Worek my Breathrean I have Sum very Disagreeable News to Right to you. Last Week m<sup>r</sup> Hawood Was at Noah Curtises in Royalstown and Curtis Bid him Tell me my Brother Benja was not worth one peney in the word m<sup>r</sup> Hawood Told him it Would be very Disagreeable News to Tell me of Curtes said if it Was it Was True and He Was a Brother of his as Well as mine and further said my Brother Was once a man of a good Stat But Now is Worth nothing and further more Told m<sup>r</sup> Hawood Benj<sup>a</sup> Was in the New Stat and I beleve in a Very pore Seeteuation His Cufed Will hath brought him to this and you in to Los and Trouble my Brothers I feal





Sorey for you and I Hope God Will give you Wisdome to behave Wisley under the froun of Providance I know not what further to Right to you for my bodey and mind is Very Weak so as my hands Tremble as I Right my Brother it Doth Look Very Strange my brother Eli Never Let you know what Seetenuation Benja Was in if I Can git git so as to be able to Ride I shall Cum Down and See you in a Little While it is supposed it Will be for my helth to Ride I Do not knew but I shall go over and see Eli give my Love to my Sisters and Cufsons So I Conclude Wifhing all fouer of my bratheran Contentedness of mind under Crofses So I Remain your Loving Brother Tell Death

New Ipswich august 18, 1784

Ezra Towne

N. B. I am so as I Ride out Ever Day and I think I gain Sum Strength give my Love to Unele Bragge

#### ABEL CUMMINGS TO ZEBULUN PERKINS.

Loving uncul & Aunt After my Due Respects to you I would In form you that we are all well and I Do Hope that These hear few Lins Will find you so I have No News to Rite to you It is A general Time of Helth I hope that you Will be So Kind as to Weat upon me for I Find it Very Hard Setling the Debts I am A going to Pay the Ears of So as to Keep the Land I Will Settle With you as Soon as I Can Sir if you are Equanted With the People In Andever for thare Is one M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Clark Lieve thear That ows me & Sir If you Will Inquire after him and find out Weather he is Worth any thing and Send me Word I will Reward you for it Money is Vary hard to be got but I Will Come Down and Settle With you as Soon as Pofable this M<sup>r</sup> Clark Is a Large Man Wite Lite Cullered Hair and About 30 years old so No more at Prefent but I Remain your Loving Cozen Till Death

Abel Cummings

Douglafs December 14<sup>th</sup> 1789

To Zeb. Perkins.





## JACOB HOOD TO JACOB TOWNE 3D.

July 8 1790<sup>th</sup>

Yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> of June I Rec<sup>d</sup> by my Brother and Considered my Self highly favoured to Receive a Line from a person that has Discovered Every Mark of Friendship to me that any person Could I Should be happy to Converse with you face to face but Since we are at such a Distance I must Rest Contented to Make letters the Messenger of my Real friendship to an Absent friend. be pleas<sup>d</sup> to Give my best Regards to your parents and all Friends. I Never Expect to be Honoured with your Company at the Eastward

Mr<sup>s</sup> Hood Sends her Regards to you and your parents. Having Nothing further to offer I Coclude Regarting it as a favour that you would write Every Oppr<sup>ty</sup> and Sir as you have ben Acquainted with my Ignorance before you will Not be Disapointed at the Incorectness of these Lines I wish you Heath and wealth and a Dwelling in the Smiles of Cheurfullness your Friend

Jacob Hood

To Jacob Towne, 3d.

## SOLOMON WILDES TO DR. JOHN MERRIAM.

Boston Febry ye 9th 1793

Dear Sir I have made enquiry at the several Bookstores relative to Books you mentioned. I found the price of Bailees Dictionary in the different Bookstores from 12<sup>s</sup> to 14<sup>s</sup> Brooks Practice in 2 vol 20/ and at one store 1 vol the price 8<sup>s</sup> Cullens practice of Phisick London Edition, 48<sup>s</sup> You may mention to Towne that I can have Rollens ancient History 10 vol 12<sup>m</sup> for 50<sup>s</sup> Gibbons Roman History 12 vol 8 vo £6-0-0 the History of England by Hume Smallet and others Down to the Conclusion of the late war 16 vol 8<sup>vo</sup> suppose they may be had £8-0-0 provided the other sett are taken with them.

Yours &amp;c

S. Willes

Doct<sup>r</sup> John Meriam

Topsfield.





## PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF JACOB TOWNE.

1793

Dec. 31 paid S. Willes 30/- borrowed of him Dec. 26.

Dec. 31 p<sup>d</sup> to J. Andrews for a pamphlet /6<sup>d</sup>

1794

Jan. 1	Paid 1/8 <sup>d</sup> to Mr Jacob Kimball for setting &c shoes on the Mare	0- 1- 8
	D <sup>o</sup> a ballance to Simeon Renny Jun /7 <sup>d</sup>	0- 0- 7
2	to Salem 12/-	0-12- 0
	D <sup>o</sup> to Betsy Roff 1/6	0- 1- 6
3	to Mr Kimball for a Bufhel of Rye bot this day of him	0- 6- 9
7	paid to Betsy Roff 4/7	0- 4- 7
13	paid Mrs. Mary Wildes for a Dunghill Cock 1/0	0- 1- 0
18	paid Stephen Cree for Threfhing &c this day ballance 1/6	0- 1- 6
Feb. 13	paid Ephraim Perkins 3/4 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup> for half a buf hel of Rye bot 11 <sup>th</sup>	0- 3-4 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>
17	paid John Bradstreet Jun. 1/6 <sup>d</sup> being a ballance which he over paid for a finging Book	0- 1- 6
Mar. 8	paid Mrs. Cleveland 1/6 for making a Bonnet & ½ y <sup>d</sup> of Catgut	0- 1- 6
13	paid Mr. W <sup>m</sup> Carlton 13/4 in full for the Mercury the last year ending Feb. 1, 1794, printed by A. Young of Boston	0-13- 4
14	paid Mr. Kimball for pint of W. I. Rum & ½ p <sup>t</sup> N. E. R.	0- 1- 2
15	p <sup>d</sup> Jos. Andrews 6/5 for a bushel of Rye	0- 6- 5
	D <sup>o</sup> paid a ballance 2/0 to J. Andrews	0- 2- 0
31	bot 8 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub> lbs. of german Steel at 9 <sup>d</sup> lb. 6/7	0- 6- 7
Apr. 2	p <sup>d</sup> Deacon Dodge 26/5	1- 6- 5
7	p <sup>d</sup> A. Smith of Ipswich /11 for a screw pin to a Gun lock	11
7	p <sup>d</sup> at the Probate office 9/	0. 9. 0
25	p <sup>d</sup> Eph. Perkins	0.16. 0
28	p <sup>d</sup> Jos. Andrews for Bushel Rye &c	0. 6. 5





Apr. 28	p <sup>d</sup> for measureing at Bare Hill 9 <sup>d</sup>	0. 0. 9
May 28	p <sup>d</sup> Charles Rogers 1/6 <sup>d</sup> for picking rocks	0. 1. 6
	D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> 1/2 for fish bot of Amos Smith	0. 1. 2
June 4	p <sup>d</sup> John Conant 4/4 in full for Blacksmithing	0. 4. 4
	D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> Rob <sup>t</sup> Perkins Jun. in full for the Town Tax for the year 1794—	
	Ballance having p <sup>d</sup> 12/ before	1. 9. 6
7	p <sup>d</sup> S. Willes 2/ for Paper & 1/6 for 3 Historical Pamphlets	0. 3. 6
	D <sup>o</sup> bot. of J. Rust (Salem) a Sutton Hoe	0. 3. 6
14	p <sup>d</sup> Eph. Andrews 3/7 for work & 3 Dollars borrowed of him Apr. 1 in full of Accounts	1. 1. 7
16	p <sup>d</sup> Stp. Perkins 1/6	0. 1. 6
19	p <sup>d</sup> Justice Cleaveland for swearing 2 appraisers	0. 1. 1½
27	p <sup>d</sup> Hapse Andrews 1/6 in full	0. 1. 6
July 1	p <sup>d</sup> Daniel Averell Jun 7/2½ <sup>d</sup> in full for Sawing	0. 7. 2½
17	p <sup>d</sup> Miles Ward 30/ for 500 Merchantable & 3/9 for 100 refuse Boards	1. 13. 9
23	p <sup>d</sup> Israel Herrick (Boxford) 18/ for a Barrel of Cyder & 3/9 for the Barrel	1. 1. 9
7	p <sup>d</sup> at the Probate office 2.7½ <sup>d</sup>	0. 2. 7½
Aug 30	p <sup>d</sup> W. Carlton for binding the 2 <sup>d</sup> Vol. of Hist. Col.	0. 3. 0
Sept, 2	p <sup>d</sup> Ephraim Wildes 7/6 in part	0. 7. 6
10	p <sup>d</sup> Robert Perkins Jun in full for the State Tax Dated Dec. 4, 1793	0. 19. 9
Nov. 1	p <sup>d</sup> J. Andrews for his steers to Salem this day	0. 1. 0
3	p <sup>d</sup> Z. Perkins 29/6 in full for three barrels of Cyder	1. 9. 6
	D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> Eph. Wildes 9/10 in full	0. 9. 10
5	p <sup>d</sup> Mrs. Andrews 3/7 for Interest in full	0. 3. 7
8	p <sup>d</sup> Moses Bradstreet in full of all accounts 3/	0. 3. 0





Nov. 19	p <sup>d</sup> for a Bushel of Rye bot this day at Moses Gould's	0. 7. 6
21	p J. Andrews Six Dollars for a load of salt hay	1.16. 0
	D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> J. Andrews 2/9 <sup>d</sup>	0. 2. 9
22	p <sup>d</sup> L <sup>t</sup> Adams 16/8 <sup>d</sup> for 12½ lbs of Sole Leather	0.16. 8
	D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> Mrs. Merriam for making a Cloak 1/4	0. 1. 4
Dec. 11	p <sup>d</sup> Ezra Perkins in part of the Town Tax two Dollars	0.12. 0
24	Bot a Pencil with a Case 1/6 and a Penknife 1/6	0. 3. 0
26	p <sup>d</sup> 4/ for Eph. Perkins helping make wall two days	0. 4. 0
31	p <sup>d</sup> John Conant for Blacksmithing in full 7/1	0. 7. 1
1795		
Feb. 23	p <sup>d</sup> Sufanna Farnum 7/6 Ballance for a Brafs Kettle	0. 7. 6
Mar. 4	p <sup>d</sup> Bimsly Peabody for 3 skins wash Leather	0. 4. 6
Mar. 9	p <sup>d</sup> for 3 Bushels of Rye bot at Mr. Kimball's	1. 2. 6
Mar. 11	p <sup>d</sup> Elijah Averell for puting in an Axletree	0. 2. 0
Mar. 14	p <sup>d</sup> Jonas Meriam for mending a Chain & 2 Cart Nails	0. 0. 9
Apr. 10	p <sup>d</sup> Z. Perkins 5/7 for himself, oxen & drafts to Salem & helping load a log	0. 5. 7
	D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> W. Carlton for a Perry's Dictionary	0. 5. 6
May 5	p <sup>d</sup> Deacon Dodge 26/4 & 1/½	1. 7.4½
May 14	Bot of Z. Perkins a Barrel of Cyder	
May 19	p <sup>d</sup> Step. Cree for helping dung out this day	0. 2. 8
June 8	p <sup>d</sup> Afa Porter for swingling flax this day	0. 2. 6
June 10	20 p <sup>d</sup> Mr Porter for hoeing—16. for making wall	0. 4. 6





Sep. 29	p <sup>d</sup> Dr Meriam 1/21 <sup>d</sup> & Oct. 1 p <sup>d</sup> 5/31 <sup>1</sup> in full for half a Barrel of Cyder Bot Sept. 1, having paid 1/ before	0. 7. 6
Oct. 1	p <sup>d</sup> Mr Kimball seting 2 Shoes 9 <sup>d</sup>	0. 0. 9
2	p <sup>d</sup> Jacob Peabody 2/— in full for a peck of Rye bot sometime since	0. 2. 0
3	Bot of Cushing & Carlton an Account Book	0. 2. 3
3	p <sup>d</sup> S. Willes 1/6 <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub> <sup>d</sup> in full of a ballance of a shere in a Ticket in Hartford State House Lottery	0. 1. 6 <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub>
Oct. 6.	Bot of A. Northey a Coffee Mill, A Pewter Bason, 1/8 <sup>d</sup> Of Mrs. Northey a pair of Decanters	Dolls. Cts. 1. 0. 2. 0.
Oct. 22.	Bot 6 Thousand of Shingles of Mr. Groe, 17 <sup>Dolls</sup> Paid in part 12 Dol- lars—Paid in full.	
	D <sup>o</sup> Bot of Gen. Abbot 7 Thousand of Shingle nails at 7/1 <sup>d</sup> & 1 Hundred of Bord nails	
Nov. 21.	Paid Charles Rogers in full 15/6 <sup>d</sup> D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> Ezra Perkins 32/5 in full for the School House Tax having paid 2/4 before	
D <sup>o</sup>	Bot two Bushels of Turnips 3/2	0. 50
1796		
March 23.	p <sup>d</sup> Jonas Meriam 20 Cents	0. 20
D <sup>o</sup>	p <sup>d</sup> Jos. Dorman 50 Cents for Barthol- omew Conant's helping draw a log to Low's Mill & 1 from Boxford woods to near Amos Gallop's	0. 50
March 24.	p <sup>d</sup> Deacon Dodge for Interest in full	4. 40
April 22.	Bot a Hat of Mr. Young at Salem 21/	3. 50
May 30.	p <sup>d</sup> Nathan Dow for Sawing 472 feet of Oak Boards	1. 36
D <sup>o</sup>	p <sup>d</sup> John Conant for half a Bushel of Rye	0. 75
June 10.	p <sup>d</sup> Royal A. Meriam for picking rocks 3 days	0. 50





June 14.	p <sup>d</sup> Mr Macanaulty for binding Historical Collections 2 Vols. in one 4/	0. 67
Do.	Bot Harris' System of Punctuation	0. 12½
June 16.	p <sup>d</sup> Simon Gould Jun. the State Tax for 1795 in full	3. 82
21.	p <sup>a</sup> for Mr Ames' Speech delivered in Congress	0. 25
July 12.	Bot of A. Northey Set of Knives & Forks	1. 25
Sept. 5.	Bot of Eb. Bowditch a pair of Buckles	2. 0
D <sup>o</sup>	— of Ropes a pair of Buckles for Lydia	1. 25
10.	p <sup>d</sup> John Balch for tanning & currying 2 calf skins & currying one side of Leather in full 8/6	1. 41½
23.	p <sup>d</sup> Dudley Wildes for mowing &c Aug. 22, at Hafsoky Meadows	75
Oct <sup>r</sup> 4.	Paid Mr Huntington 20/2 for a share in the Library	3. 33½
20.	Bot of Jn <sup>o</sup> Gardner a pair of stockings, silk & worsted,	1. 26¾
Nov. 11.	Bot of Mr Lampson of Beverly a Hat for Lydia	3. 0
1797		
Jan. 9.	p <sup>d</sup> Eph. Perkins 4/1½ for Drawing 16½ ft. Timber to Salem	
Jan. 12.	p <sup>d</sup> Eph. Perkins for helping load & Draw a log to near new mills, yesterday being Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> in full 9/6	2. 27
Jan. 14.	p <sup>d</sup> Mr. Kimball for shoeing the steers yesterday	1. 0
Jan. 16.	p <sup>d</sup> Elisha Perkins for his oxen to the new mills Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup>	0. 27½
24.	p <sup>d</sup> Simon Gould Jun. the remainder of the Town Tax for 1795 in full 1 Doll & 70 Cts. having p <sup>d</sup> 5 Dollars before	1. 70
24.	p <sup>d</sup> S. Gould Jun 2/ in part of the Town Tax for 1796	0. 33½





Jan. 24.	D <sup>o</sup> p <sup>d</sup> 1 Doll. & 5 Cts in full for Adam Rofs's making two Barrels	
	Nov <sup>r</sup> 1796	1. 5
27.	Bot 8 Bushels of Rye at 8/ p <sup>r</sup> Bushel	10. 66 $\frac{2}{3}$
Feb. 4.	p <sup>d</sup> M <sup>r</sup> Brickett a Note 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dolls principal, Total	28. 65
8.	p <sup>d</sup> M <sup>r</sup> . Sawyer Ju <sup>r</sup> Adm <sup>r</sup> to Mr. Pierpont's Estate for Eliza & Lydia Towne in full for their share of a Bond	67. 73
Feb. 28.	p <sup>d</sup> Mr Kimball two dozen of ox helves in full for an ax bot of him Jan <sup>y</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	1. 50
Mar. 11.	p <sup>d</sup> Ben. Kimball for mowing July 21, 1796	0. 83
16.	Paid Simon Gould Ju <sup>n</sup> part of the Town Tax for 1796	0. 83
24.	Paid John Balch for Currying a fide of Leather	0. 41 $\frac{1}{2}$
May 5.	P <sup>d</sup> Benj. Hobbs for grafting afternoon	0. 50
18.	P <sup>d</sup> Dea <sup>n</sup> Dodge for Interest in full	4. 40
19.	p <sup>d</sup> Mr. Kimball for 2 new & feting 2 shoes on the Mare	0. 75
31.	p <sup>d</sup> Roger Balch for Taxes for Lydia's upper field	0. 33
June 8.	p <sup>d</sup> Simon Gould Jun. ballance in full for the Town Tax in 1796	2. 79 $\frac{1}{2}$
13.	p <sup>d</sup> T. Perkins Jun. for 4 Milk pans	0. 50
27.	p <sup>d</sup> Simon Gould Jun. for the State Tax for 1796, in full	3. 68
July 29.	Bot a pair of Paniards of Mr Butman, p <sup>d</sup> in full	2. 0
Sep. 13.	Bot a Bottle of British oil 1/6	0. 25
14.	Paid John Balch for Currying a Calf skin in full	0. 25
14.	Paid Amos Foster in full for 30 lb of Pork bot of him Aug. 22, 25/	4. 17
15.	Paid Z. Perkins for pair of wheels to Salem July 29 <sup>th</sup> in full	0. 20
Oct. 7.	Bot a pair of steelyards of A. Northey, p <sup>d</sup> in full	1. 0





Oct. 7.	Do at Mr Mansfield's a Muslin Handkerchief, L. T.	0. 83
Sept. 30.	p <sup>d</sup> Young & Minns in full for the Mercury	2. 31
30.	Bot of E. Larkin, Morfe's Gazetteer at B. Rufsel's, Correspondence between Adet & Pickering	2. 0
	at John West's an Ink horn	0. 10
	at Gridley & Nolen's a Jacket Pattern	0. 18 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Bot $\frac{1}{2}$ of Adams' Defence with Mr. Willes in equal halves	0. 62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oct. 9.	p <sup>d</sup> John Conant in full for a Gridiron	2. 0
	Do p <sup>d</sup> Mr S. Willes in full for money borrowed	1. 0
10.	p <sup>d</sup> Royal A. Meriam in full, 6/1	13. 20
12.	p <sup>d</sup> Amos Gallop for 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb beef at 4 <sup>d</sup> 11/2 <sup>d</sup>	1. 0
12.	p <sup>d</sup> Zeb Perkins in as ballance of accounts	1. 06
12.	p <sup>d</sup> Z. Perkins for sawing this day	18. 43
13.	p <sup>d</sup> Mr. Carleton (of Hamstead) in full for 4 barrels of Cyder	0. 50
14.	Cash p <sup>d</sup> A. Porter 2/3	13. 32 $\frac{1}{2}$
31.	Cash p <sup>d</sup> Deacon S. Dodge in p <sup>t</sup> for a Note of hand	0. 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nov. 6.	Cash p <sup>d</sup> Deacon Dodge in part for a Note of hand	20. 10
19.	p <sup>d</sup> Jacob Clarke in full of all accounts	30. 0
24.	Bot of J. Ramsdell two hen Turkeys, p <sup>d</sup> in full	1. 22
21.	Paid J. Andrews in part of the Town Tax	1. 17
Dec. 13.	p <sup>d</sup> D. Balch for peck lime 1/ & mending crack in Chimney 1/9 <sup>d</sup>	6. 0
20.	p <sup>d</sup> Elisha Perkins for 6 sheep in full	0. 29
23.	p <sup>d</sup> Amos Foster for a Bushel of Rye	11. 50
		1. 31 $\frac{1}{4}$
1790		
Jan. 4.	p <sup>d</sup> Mr. Noyes for copy of Hafsoky meadow lots	0. 10



Jan.	11.	p <sup>d</sup> Wid <sup>o</sup> Bree for Gown making &c	0. 25
	23.	p <sup>d</sup> Jonas Meriam for a Loggerhead	0. 22
Feb.	1.	p <sup>d</sup> Register of Deeds for searching the Records	0. 20
	2.	Bot 3 Bushel of Rye p <sup>d</sup> Elijah Brad- street	4. 0
	7.	p <sup>d</sup> Sol. Averell for Choping wood 2/6	0. 41½
	21.	p <sup>d</sup> Mr. Emerson in full for a Cow Ten Dollars (he having allowed 6 Dollars for making wall to fence out the Road Total for the Cow 16 Dols.)	10. 00
Mar.	31.	p <sup>d</sup> Endicott for currying a calf skin	0. 21
Mar.	6.	Pd Jos. Andrews in full for the Town Tax	5. 63
	6.	P <sup>d</sup> 2/9 <sup>d</sup> for Nath. Fisk Jun. making a pair of Cloth Shoes L. T.	0. 45½
Feb.	27.	Bot 4 Bushels of Rye meal p <sup>d</sup> Dr Meriam of Middleton	5. 17
May	11.	p <sup>d</sup> M <sup>rs</sup> M. Williams for altering &c a Bonnet 6/6	1. 8½
	22.	Bot No. 1 Vol. 5 of Historical Col- lections	0. 25
	29.	Bot Harper's Address to his Constitu- ents in May 1797	0. 31

Account of Payments Rec<sup>d</sup>

1794

Jan.	1	Major Gould p <sup>d</sup> for a singing Book	0. 4. 6
	2	Mr. Roger Balch paid for a singing Book	0. 4. 6
	3	Mr. A. Conant paid for a singing Book	0. 4. 6
	7	Oliver Perkins Jun. paid for a sing- ing Book	0. 4. 6
	10	Joshua Towne paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
	14	David Perkins Jun. paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
	D <sup>o</sup>	Jos. Averell paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
	22	John Bradstreet 2 <sup>d</sup> paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6





Feb. 12	Mr. Moses Perkins p <sup>d</sup> for a finging ing Book	0. 4. 6
8	Mr. Aaron Conant paid 6/3 <sup>d</sup> for his his part of the Mercury the year past ending Feb. 2 <sup>d</sup>	0. 6. 8
21	Nath <sup>l</sup> P. Averell paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
Mar. 4	John Conant 2 <sup>d</sup> paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
7	Abraham Hobbs Jun. p <sup>d</sup> for finging Book	0. 4. 6
31	Rec <sup>d</sup> 26/5 <sup>d</sup> for 42 feet of White Oak Timber	1. 6. 5
Apr. 25	Rec <sup>d</sup> 23/2 <sup>d</sup> for 38½ feet of White Oak Timber	1. 3. 5
May	Mr A. Conant p <sup>d</sup> 1/8 for his part of the Mercury one quarter	
1794		
June 3	Rec <sup>d</sup> of Eben Pope of Salem 13¾ Dol- lars for Hay sold to him this day 13 C & ¾	4. 2. 6
27	R. Perkins Jun. p <sup>d</sup> for a Calfskin & for a Kip skin	0. 5. 3 0. 5. 0
July 10	Mr P. Woodberry p <sup>d</sup> 4 dollars as bal- lance of Acc <sup>ts</sup>	1. 4. 0
7	Mr Briggs p <sup>d</sup> 52/ for 80 feet of Tim- ber	2. 12 0
Sept. 1	Rec <sup>d</sup> of Roger Balch 7/ in full for two pigs he bot June 13	0. 7. 0
9	Rec <sup>d</sup> of P. Woodberry Six Dollars for half a Thoufand of Hogshead Staves	1. 16. 0
Oct. 6	Rec <sup>d</sup> of Thos. Kimball 6/ & 7 rec <sup>d</sup> 8/3 for about 24 feet of white oak Timber	0. 14. 3
7	Rec <sup>d</sup> of P. Woodberry for 3½ hundred of Hogshead Staves	1. 4. 0
Nov. 1	Capt. Jona. Peele p <sup>d</sup> for 6½ ft of Bark	1. 10. 0
Dec. 2	Jos. Averell p <sup>d</sup> 2/ for his part of a quarter of a Ticket in Hartford State House Lottery	0. 2. 0





Dec. 26 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Cornelius Cree two Dollars  
in part for his Improvement of the  
Mine Lot the last Season 0. 12. 0

1795

Jan. 29 16½ C Hay sold to James Dunlap at  
19 Dollars per Ton 4. 15. 5

Mar. 2 Sold 26 feet white Oak Timber to E.  
Batchelder, Rec<sup>d</sup> payment 0. 18. 10

12 Sold to Mr Becket 24 feet of White  
Oak & 10½ ft. yellow oak Timber  
24/9. Rec<sup>d</sup> payment April 1<sup>st</sup> 1. 4. 9

Apr. 10 Sold to Mr Becket 51 feet of white  
oak. Rec<sup>d</sup> Payment 1. 18. 3

30 Rob<sup>t</sup> Perkins Jun. p<sup>d</sup> for a Cow hide  
and a Calf skin & 1 little one 1. 2. 8½

May 5 Rob<sup>t</sup> Perkins Jun. p<sup>d</sup> for a heifers hide 0. 10. 6

1795

June 9 Rec<sup>d</sup> at Carlton's 13/1½ being the Sum  
due as a prize for a Quarter of a  
Ticket in Hartford State House  
Lottery No. 12795—Belonging to  
S. Willes J. Towne, 3<sup>d</sup>, J. Averell  
& J. Conant.

Sept. 22 Cornelius Cree p<sup>d</sup> one Dollar in part  
for his improvement of the Mine  
Lot in 1794.

Oct. 3 Sold to Dr Long, 5 lb for me & 3 lb  
for Lydia of Beeswax at 2/7<sup>d</sup> p lb. 1. 0. 8  
Tub of Honey, the whole 38 lb. the  
Tub 8½ lb. The Honey 39½ lb. 1. 11. 11  
For Lydia, the Whole 23½ lb the Tub  
6½ lb. The Honey 12½ lb. Rec<sup>d</sup>  
Payment 0. 18. 8

Oct. 6 Sold two Dozen of Fowls—6 Dollars

Oct. 16 Cornelius Cree p<sup>d</sup> two Dollars in full  
for his Improvement of the Mine  
Lot in 1794

1796

Apr. 21 K. Perkins Jun. p<sup>d</sup> for a Cow hide 3  
Dollars.





## ISAAC AVERILL TO JACOB TOWNE.

Dartmouth University May

Respected Friend.

With pleasure I dedicate these few lines to you, flattering myself they will meet your approbation, especially that part which shall treat of my removal to Cambridge University.

At present my health\* is not so good as I could wish; but perhaps owing to hard study. My mental powers being debilitated may excuse me from that accuracy which you might otherwise expect.

I would inform you that in the Last Wednesday of this month our class will have a public exhibition in the Chapel which is a customary, annual appointment for the Sophomore classes.

As epistles are not commonly for the prefs, we write upon as many topics as fancy dictates. Great is the advantage put in our hands to get wisdom; but knowledge is not to be obtained only by close application and industry; but the application of four years runs almost imperceptibly away, and we scarcely know that we have learnt any thing; the comprehension or knowledge of one thing is only opening the door for the investigation of another, the more vacuums or windows to the field of science greater are the splendent refractions of light.

Lest I should not have room, to discuss the first mentioned subject, I with pleasure resume the Theme. One of my class-mates is about removing to Cambridge, and I expect, if life and health permit, to be his company.

We think it proper, together with judicious and friendly advice, to enter there at Commencement time. If this plan meets with success, I shall come home so as to enter at commencement.

Much more might be said; but perhaps not without impropriety, and intruding upon epistolary writing, I shall conclude by subscribing myself your friend.

Isaac Averell.

P. S. Send me a line as soon as may be convenient.

[To] Mr. Jacob Towne tertius, Topsfield.

\*See Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 17, p. 72.





## ABNER HOOD TO JACOB TOWNE.

Worthy Friend These moments I spend with pleasure to Inform you I am well; & hope My lines will find you and your Connections the same; I have not been so happy as to Receive one line from you since I have been in this Country, though with pleasure I have written you a Number of letters but Still—the Regard I have for you I Cannot Tax you with too much Unkindness for when I contemplate on your friendship in past times It makes Compensation for Future deficiency. I have Nothing of Importance To Inform You of at present.

As to my practice I have had & Continue to have Considerable for a Young man & have had Very good success which seems to Support my practice being in great hurry I must close Subscribing my self your friend and well wisher.

Abner Hood

Edgecombe 4 June 1795

P. S. Give my best Regards to your parents & tell them I want very much to see them & hope It will be in my power this Summer

[To] Mr Jacob Towne, Topsfield.

## JOSEPH ANDREWS TO MRS. LYDIA TOWNE.

Topsfield June the 18 day 1795

Madam I take this opportunity again to remind [you of] your Solemn promises & engagements relative to your marrying me which sd promises I shall insist of holding you to and should you attempt marriage with any other person I shall pursue the Steps of the Laws of the Land have pointed out in such Cases

Yours &c

Joseph Andrews

to mrs Lydia Towne in Topsfield.

## ASAHEL SMITH TO JACOB TOWNE.

Tunbridge Jan<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1796

Respected Sir

having a favorable opportunity altho on very short Notis, I with Joy & gratitude embrace it. Returning hearwith





my most hartly thanks for your Respect Shone in your faver of the 30<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> by m<sup>r</sup> Willes which I view as a Singular Specimen of friendship which has very Little bean practised by any of my frinds in Topsfield, altho often requested

My famely is all, threw the goodnefs of the Divine Benediction, in a Tolerable good State of health and Desier to be remembered to you and to all inquiring frinds

I have set me up a New house, sence mr wildes was heer, and expect to remove into it Next Spring, and to begin again on an intire new farme and my Son Joseph will Live on the old farme (if this that has bean but 4 year occupied Can be Called old) and Carry it on at the halves, which half I hope will nearly furnish my famely with food, whilst I with my four youngest Sons shall in-deaver to Bring to a Nother farme &c

as to nuse, I have nothing, as I know of, worth notising, except that grain has taken a sudden rice amongst us about one third

as to the Jacobine party they are not very numerous hear, or if they are they are pretty still, there is Some in this State (viz) in Bennington, who Like other Children Crying for a Rattle have Blared out against their Rulers, in hopes to rest from them if possible, what they esteem, the plaything of power & trust. But they have Bean pretty well whipt, and have Become Tolerabley Quiet again and I am in hopes if they Live to arive at the years of Disgreffion. when the empier of reason shall take place, that they will then become good members of Societty notwithstanding their noisey nicious behaviour in their childhood, for which they was neither capable of hearing or giving aney reason

for my part I am so willing to trust the government of the world in the hands of the Supream ruler of universal Nature, that I Do not at present wish to try to wrist it out of his hands, and I have so much Confidence in his abilities to teetch our Senetors wisdom, that I Do not think it worth while for me to intirpose from the Little Stock of knowledge that he has favered me with in the affair, either one way or the other. he has Conducted us





threw a glorious revelution and has Brought us into the promised Land of peace & Liberty, and I Believe that he is about to Bring all the world into the Same Beatitude in his own time & way which, altho his way appear never so inconsistant to our Bliend reason, yet may be perfectly Consistent with his Designs and I Believe that the Stone is now Cut out of the mountain without hands, spoken of by Daniel and his Smitten the image upon his feet, By which the iron, the Clay, the Brass, the Silver, and the gold (viz) all monarical and eccliesastical Terony will be Broken to peaces and Becom as the Chaff of the Summer Thrashing flore the wind Shall carry them all away that there shall be no place found for them

Give my Best regards to your parents and tell them that I have taken up with the Eleventh Commandment that the Negro Tought to the minister, which was thus the minister asked the Negro how maney commandments there was, his answare was, Eleven Sir. aye, replyd the other, what is the Eleventh, that is one I Never heard of the Eleventh Commandment, Sir, is, miend your own Businefs.

So I Chuse to Do, and give my Self but Little Concernes about what pases in the political world. I expect my Son Joseph\* will be married in a few days. give my Best regards to Dr Meriam, mr Willes, Joseph Dorman, and mr Cree, and tell mr Cree I thank him for his respects and hope he will accept of mine. write to me as often & as Large as you can and oblige your Sincear frind & well wisher

mr Jacob Town Ju<sup>r</sup>

Asabel Smith

[On page 2] give my harty thanks to mr Charles Rogers for his Respect shown in writing me a few Lines and tell him that I Should a wrote to him now had I had Time But Now Wave it for the present, as I have Considerable part of what I intend to you

if I Should Live & Do well I expect to Come to Topsfield my Self next winter, which if I Do I Shall Come and pay you a visit. fair well

tell mr Joseph Cree that if he will Come hear and Set

\*The father of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism.





up his trade I will warrant him as much work as he can Do, and good pay.

[To] M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Town Topsfield Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SAMUEL BRADSTREET

Imports directly from the Manufacturers of *London, Bristol, Birmingham* and *Sheffield*, and has for Sale, by Wholesale or Retail, as cheap as sold in *Boston*,

A great Variety of Hardware Goods, consisting of Bristol Crown Glafs of all fizes—Brafs Kettles and Warming Pans—London and Bristol Pewter—Church Flaggons, Chriftening Bafons, Tankards and Cups—Shot and Lead—German and Englifh Steel—Smiths' Anvils and Vices—Sheet Iron—Seine Twine—beft of large Corn Fans, &c, &c.

N. B. Cafh given for Old Pewter and Brafs.

[On reverse] "Charlestown April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1797 4 Corn Fans at 24/ £4.16.0

Received payment Saml Bradstreet.

Boston November the 5<sup>th</sup> 1797

Worthy mifs yours I Received with transports of Joy I broke Open the feals with modesty and Decency and my greedy Eyes foon Devourd the Lines of profound wifdom there worthy to be Drawn in Letters of gold o thou Epitomy of Nature whose Beauty exceeds that of owls of Batts of harpes and of all the Rest of winged monfters and if I furvey the morpelite animals, fuch as poine hedghogs monkeys apes and the Like I find they are mean compared with the and if I view the fifh that glide up and Down the filver streams and cut the foaming waves In the anelantic ocean fuch as haddock phlace and flounders I fhould find them unclean Compared with the who can help admiring a creature whose Beauty far fufpafes all the Excrementious throngs of ternal mumies and whose fmiles far Exceeds the ugly grinnings of the Babboons of tartary methinks Nature hath Done Its work to pantilia in





the form of your Beautifull Body and hath furnished  
 your mind with Excelent Qualifications in arts and science  
 and if you proceed Peradventure you will fhortly be fit  
 for a Climate where arts And sciences are wholly ufelefs  
 From your Friend

ANNE PERKINS TO MOLLY PERKINS.

Loving coufin after my love to you I would inform  
 you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you  
 so I want to see more than I ever did but dont know  
 when I shall I have no news to write to you only Betty  
 Sweat was married laft winter and moved to Wafhington  
 the twenty fecond day of June remember me to my  
 cousin foster tell her I want to see her very much write  
 me a letter as soon as you can to let me know how you  
 do so no more at present but I remain your coufin

Unity Auguft 15

Anne Perkins

To Mifs Molly Perkins.

ELIJAH TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Sturbridge, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1800

Honord Uncle

An opportunity presenting I now embrace it to write a  
 few lines to you hoping they may find you in good heaith  
 as they at present leave me I have to inform you of the  
 death of My father who died about three week past after  
 a sicknefs of three weeks his disorder was the gravel

I wish you to write to me first opportunity you have  
 for I wish to hear from my friends

I remain your loving Nephew

Mr Jacob Towne

Elijah Towne

REV. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON TO JOSEPH CREE.

Topsfield 28<sup>th</sup> Augst, 1802

Sir

I expect to complete the month at this houfe on Wednes-  
 day next. On Thursday next I hope to be ready to begin  
 the fchool near the meeting houfe if the committee pleafe.





I forgot to call this morning at your house & give you this information.

I send you this word that you may put up a notification to-morrow.

Your humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

[To] M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Cree.

Afahel Huntington

DAVID BALCH TO JACOB TOWNE.

Topsfield February : 2<sup>th</sup> 1803

kind Sir I now take this oppertunity to tell you of Ben grays be havers at School he Pushed our Polly up a ginft the foor Door & hurt hir very much in going out of the Door, Elisha Huntiton he laid him over the toop of the iner Door on his Bowels to Day noon. if their is not a meediat Stoop Putt to Such Behavior I feer murder must take Plais. he ought not for to be left in the School hous at noon. I See no beter way than the way you Did yesterday turn theas Large ones out of the School, from a friend I wish you well m<sup>r</sup> Town if mine Donte behav weell I wish to now it

David Balch.

I wish you would order the large ones out of the School house the first, or gray will run over you as he did over m<sup>r</sup> Stetson

To M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Town Topsfield

ASA WILDES TO JACOB TOWNE.

Topsfield March the 8<sup>th</sup> 1803

M<sup>r</sup> Towne many have thought you could not work the following Sum that I understand M<sup>r</sup> T Cummings sent to you I think you Can work it and I would be very glad if you would be send me the work at large.

Suppose I exchange 4£ 10s 10<sup>d</sup> for 11 Crowns and 4 Dollars and at another time I have 4 Crowns and 3 Dollars for 1£ 15s each being of the same value with the first what is the value of a Crown and of a Dollar.

Your humble Servant

Asa Wildes

It is Night and my pen is poor and I have not time to write any more





## SYLVANUS WILDES TO JACOB TOWNE.

Boston Feb<sup>ry</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1803

Sir

I take this opportunity to mention some few occurrences. you see by the papers the turn the election took, but I hope the next as (Foster is expected every day to send in his Resignation) will terminate in favour of Timothy — I expect pretty warm work this week and next relative to Princes Turnpike which will be vehemently opposed by Essex Bridge and Salem Turnpike Corporations they looked on princes project as chymical until he had leave to bring in a bill and finding the sudden sale of the shares.

Princes Turnpike consists of 1000 shares which makes 100 000 Dollars 60 000 Dollars was subscribed in Boston in half a day and all the shares taken up in one day if he would have disposed of them Prescott on saturday when he first understood the rapid sale of the shares in a very solemn manner moved for a reconsideration of a vote for giving leave to bring in a bill, or for a time to be assigned for discussing of the propriety of giving leave to bring in a bill neither of which obtained. Thorndike seems violently agitated, but seems to be the agitation of despair. the Boston seat I think will be unanimous in support of it particular will [it] be ably advocated by Messers Otis & Lowell the latter of whom I heard tell Prescott, that had In general been pretty indifferent relative to the Transactions of the present session but on this subject he was determined to exert all his talents.

I have at several different times conversed with Capt Prince and have twice seen his plan. he says he must vary it fifty or sixty rods to the eastward in order for better ground, and avoid Lynn ridge—the five last miles are the worst part of the way but practicable—the five first he says that 30 rods one way or the other out of a straight line would be impracticable.

N. B. he has the every mile marked with its number laid down on his plan and the kind of Land.

From yours &amp;c

Sylvanus Wildes





To Jacob Towne

you are hereby warned to meet at the usual Place of Parade in Topsfield on wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 of the clock A. M. with arms Complete for training as the law directs and there wait further orders by order of Capt John Bradstreet Topsfield

October 14<sup>th</sup> 1803

Bishop Bordman

Topsfield Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 1804

Sir,

The committee for visiting schools, have concluded to visit your school tomorrow at 3 o'clock P. M.

I should have given you the notice a day or two sooner, but thro forgetfulness I have neglected it.

Yours respectfully

A. Huntington.

Mr Jacob Towne 3<sup>d</sup>

EDMOND TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Windsor, Vermont, March 23, 1811

Respected friend

gladly do I imbrace the present opportunity to send you A line to let you know that we are well, hope this will find you so. I should be very glad to once more Visit my friends at Topsfield, but age prevents me. I lately heard that my Brother Elijah was very sick and not likely to live. I want you should write to me and let me know wether he is living or not, for I feel anxious to hear from him to know wether he is in the land of the living. I should be very glad to have you come and visit me, if you ever have opportunity. Was I young as you are the length of the way would be no hindrance to me. I would soon see you, but old age deprives us of the pleasures of youth and we must submit to it. Please to remember my love and your Aunts to Sister Perkins. our Love to you all and wishes for your welfare this from your uncle

Edmond Towne

[To] Mr. Jacob Towne

Topsfield Massachusetts





## Take Notice

The subscribers Respectfully informe their friends and the Publice that they have Constantly for Sale at there Shop in Perkins row So Called a quantity of Saddles and bridles Neatly ornimented which they offer for Sale Cheap for Cash or approved Credit for Ninety days

## Take Notice

Cafh and the highest Price given for all kind of harness Leather at there shop Also at there office upstairs over s<sup>d</sup> Shop Commifsion given to quartermasters

George Thomas

John Perkins, Jun.

Topsfield, March 13<sup>th</sup> 1815

MR. NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND TO JACOB TOWNE.

Boston 23<sup>d</sup> Jan 1816

Dear Sir

Inclosed I send you a very rough draft of a *bill* I wish [you] to examine and alter and correct it and transcribe it, so as to have it ready for me when I come home. I did think of adding a sect<sup>n</sup> to provide a penalty but upon reflection I have thought it not best. I am persuaded it would not pass & it would create some suspicion of bad design. I send you some papers which you may look over & hand some of them to my wife. There are many petitions presented respecting the sub. I hope your Pet<sup>n</sup> will come on soon. I understand by a letter from Mr Hurlbutt that you propose to have your Pet<sup>n</sup> is to be signed by the Committee of the morral evil I think that will do very well. I understand there was to be a conven<sup>n</sup> on the subject today at Topsfield. I hope it will be or has been well attended especially by Topsfield men. What success will attend the exertions is difficult to predict—I fear not great—there is a committee to whom all these pet<sup>ns</sup> are committed the comm<sup>tee</sup> are Cleaveland & Adams of the Senate and Doolittle of Belchertown Levi Lincoln of Worcester and Knap of Nport on the part of the house no





doubt the committee or majority of them would agree to an efficient report, but there is no probability of carrying any thing very important through the Court. there appears a very great hostility to giving the Tything Men much power. If the collector of direct taxes has been to Topsfield I hope you took a memorandum of my taxes as well as your own. I believe Exchequer bills may be bought at from 8 to 10 discount. More of this when I see you. Yours with much esteem.

N. Cleaveland.

### SUBSCRIPTION FOR A BIBLE FOR THE PULPIT.

We the subscribers engage to pay the several sumes affixed to our names for the purpose of purchasing a Bible for the pulpit in Topsfield

Names	Sumes	Names	Sumes
Nellie Hood	50	Mehetabel Gould	50
Ruth Emerson	75	Sophia Gould	50
Lucy Cleaveland	50	Lydia Peabody	50
Mary Cleaveland	50	Annar Pingree	50
Lydia Bradstreet	50	Sarah Pike	50
Almira Meriam	50	Mary Balch	25
Betsey Perley	1 00	Sarah Balch	25
Esther Wildes	50	Sally Gray	25
Susan Wildes	50	Huldah Gould	50
Mary Towne	50	Eunice Gould	50
Ruth Hood	50	Susan Cummings	50
Betsey Symonds	50	Sally Rea	50
Abigail Hammond	50	Mercea Lamson	75
Ruth Bradstreet	50	Harriet Josephine Emer-	
Nabby Perkins	50	son	75
Elisabeth Perkins	50	Eunice Conant	25

The Bible was placed in the Pulpit June 23, 1816.

Topsfield April 11 1821

To Mr Frederick Hood

Sir having Received a letter from you dated March 15 requesting us to give you Some information whether





Mess. John Hood William Perkins Phillip McKenzie and Doct Frederick Meriam were living and if a live where they lived Sir we have made some considerable inquiras respecting the above named persons and can inform you that M<sup>r</sup> John Hood is a live and lives in Topsfield Massachusetts State. M<sup>r</sup> Phillip McKenzie was alive last September and was then living in the town of Waltham near Vergennes in the State of Vermont. M<sup>r</sup> Perkins is dead. we are of the opinion that you must have reference to Doct John Meriam, instead of Frederick Meriam, as there was a Doct John Meriam in Topsfield, but he is dead, he has been dead about three years. Their is no Doct Frederick Meriam in the Town nor never was.

JACOB PERKINS TO JACOB TOWNE.

Unity Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 1824.

Very Dear friend.

I set out for the western contry 24<sup>th</sup> last May with my wife little waggon and two horses and arived at Philadelphia in nine days 321 miles stayed with Joseph four days then set out for Ohio and arived at Scipio in seventeen days 495 miles stayed with my children M. Ray and Hannah nine days July 5<sup>th</sup> set out for Darby where Br. Elisha's folks live and arived 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning 114 I was so sick while there that I never expected to get away but God was merciful and blessed the means that woore used and I recovered so as to set out for home July 22<sup>nd</sup> and arived to my family in peace August 21<sup>st</sup> about one O'clock for which mercy I had great reason to be thankful.

I was so weak when I set out for home that I could but just get into the waggon when I got home I was some better I have been worse and better several times since I have been at home, but have of late grown very weak and am now unable to walk the room without a staff I have a general weakness through my whole body and am affected with rheumatism and cholic pains so as not to be able to rest in bed but very little. I think I have no reason to expect to ever get so well as to visit my friend again in this world I desire to be resined and to acquiese





in the will of God. I want you and your wife to come and see us this fall if you would ever see me again. Please to give my love to your family all my Dear friends in Topsfield particularly to Ephraim tell him that he must come and see me very soon if he would ever see me any more. I found my friends in Ohio enjoying a measure of health but not as healthy as our friends are in these eastern states. My family and our friends are generally well. I had ought to have written to you some time agoe but my poor health and other things have hindered. I do not think I have seen a day this week that I could have written before today my pains have mostly left me, I have but just strength enough to set and write I must draw to a close and subscribe my self your sincere friend

[To] Jacob Towne

Jacob Perkins

ABNER FOSTER TO JACOB TOWNE.

Rindge December the 14— 1832

Dear Sir i have scent a few lines to you to inform you that i want you to Git me a Depersion for the year 1775 in December M<sup>r</sup> Pike told me that my Sister Hoobs would Be a Good witnefs for me i want you to Go to there Hous and See hir and see if fhee Doant Rember that i went to Boston under Lt Rufus wheler was from Byfield and my Brother Burbank went with me At the Same time and thomas Teney was in the same Company Now you will Due well to see what fister Hoobs and Brother Hoobs if thay or fhee Nowes Any thing Abott it Pleas to git all thay Now About it M<sup>r</sup> Nelson told me that Bill Leatherbee was out at the same time and he Now Livs in ipswich if you Doant Git No Proff from Sister Hoobs Pleas to see if you Can find him if he Dont Live two far of if there is Nothing to Be Got there then i would have you Call on W<sup>m</sup> Leatherbee and Git one from him or see if he Noes of Anyone Sir i have scent you one Doller and wish you to scend them in a Leater to me and scend what the Caust is and i will scend you the Money Pleas to Direct it to Rindge Post office if you





can obtain Sister Hoobs Proof I would Not Look Any further Dere Sir Pleas to fend me as soon as Posile Sir Doont forgit the year December 1775

Abner Foster

JOHN TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Dear Sir after my respects to you I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know that through the Divine goodness of God I am well and in usual health and I hope that these may find you and your family injoying the same blessing. Sir Nathaniel Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> informed me that you wished to know the names of the family of towns which moved from the town of Topsfield to the town of Greenwich and the time they moved and the time of their birth if known. Sir I can give you their names but the exact time when they moved from Topsfield to Greenwich or the exact time of their birth is unknown to me. Sir my Grandfathers name was John Towne I think I have heard him say that he was born in the town of Topsfield about the year A. D. 1686 as near as I can recolect and that he was married about the year A. D. 1714 to a widow Abigail Towne of Topsfield aforesaid by whom he had five Children viz. Samuel who was born about the year A. D. 1715 the month and the day of this birth is not known to me Jonathan was born about the year A. D. 1718 the month and the day of this birth also is not known to me Abigail was born about the year A. D. 1721 the month and Day of her birth also is unknown to me. Catherine was born in November about the year A. D. 1726 the day of the month unknown to me. John was born November 15<sup>th</sup> about the year A. D. 1780. my Aunt Abigail Towne died in Topsfield the time unknown to me my Grandmother Abigail Towne also died in Topsfield the time of her Death unknown to me. the Survivors of the family all moved from Topsfield to Greenwich in April about the year A. D. 1749 according to the best of my information. Sir I have had no records to refer to my father once informed me that my said Grandfathers family were recorded in the record of births in the town of Topsfield it would be a great sat-





isfaction to me if you would examine your records of births & Deaths to see if you can find upon your towns records the family I have described and if you do you will give me great pleasure if you would write to me and give me the time of their births and Deaths as they stand upon your towns records. perhaps I have not named them in succession which you will correct. Sir I am yours with Due respect.

Dana, January 2<sup>nd</sup> A. D. 1836

John Towne

To Jacob Towne Esq<sup>r</sup> Topsfield

### SUBSCRIPTION TO PURCHASE A CHURCH ORGAN.

The unders<sup>d</sup> having learned that the Lad<sup>s</sup> of the Cong<sup>l</sup> Chh & Soc. in T<sup>d</sup> have resolved to raise *one thousand Dollars*, or more, to be approp<sup>d</sup> to the purchase of a Chh. Organ, & being desirous to aid in the making of s<sup>d</sup> purchase, Hereby severally sub. the sums of money set opposite their respective names, & hereby severally agree to pay s<sup>d</sup> sums to the Treas. of the "Ladies Soc." connected with s<sup>d</sup> Chh & Soc., whenever & so soon as the amts subscribed hereto, or otherwise raised for the object & purpose aforesaid shall amt. to the sum of *one thousand Dollars*.

Topsf<sup>d</sup> October 17<sup>th</sup> 1856.

Names.		Names.	
John Cleaveland	\$50	Joseph Towne Jr.	5
John Wright	25	Solomon Wildes	25
R. A. Merriam	10	M. B. Wiides	25
Henry West	10	Asahel Huntington	25
E. T. Gould	25	J. M. Bubier	20
J. R. Peabody	10	"A Friend to Topsfield"	50
J. P. Towne	10	T. W. Peirce	25
N. Cleaveland & Daugh-		W. N. Cleaveland	15
ter	25	Henry Perkins	3
J. Warren Healy (on con-		A Friend	5
dition)	25	Ansel Gould	5
Dr. David Choate Jr.	10	Augustus Smith	3
Mrs. H. H. Cleaveland	15	W <sup>m</sup> Black	5
Mrs. Mary Taylor	10	David Casey	5
W <sup>m</sup> H. Foster	20	A Friend	1





Chas Herrick	25	Sarah Sanderson	1
Moses Wildes	25	John G. Hood	5
William Bradstreet	5	Willard Dwinell	3
James Waters	5	J. A. Gould	20
Mrs. Willard Smith	5	T. P. Munday	10
Caleb Perkins	5	J. P. Gould	11
John Dwinell	3	T. F. Leach	4
Elijah Bradstreet	3	Nath. Averill	3
Neh <sup>m</sup> Perkins	2	F. Stiles	1
Edward Ferguson	1	Silas Cochran	1
Elisha A. Hood	5	Esq. Poole	25

C. J. P. FLOYD TO JACOB P. TOWNE.

Newbern N. C. Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1862

Friend Towne.

I have long desired to write you a few lines, thinking that perhaps you would like to hear from the Topsfield men in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regt, but could not get the time to write when I felt able, and as I have a few leisure moments at this time I thought to intrude myself upon your time for a friendly *chat*, and I hope to interest you by telling you where we are, what we are doing, how we got here, and generally what we see and have seen in this *misérable* portion of our Country.

And first you will see by the dating of this that we are in New Bern (or in modern phraseology Newbern).

Of the City and its inhabitation I shall speak at some future time.

We In the 23<sup>rd</sup> are at present and have been since the 7<sup>th</sup> of May doing Provost duty in the City; the duty is not so laborious as some others, but is very tiresome and wears upon the men very much, so that there are many at all times that are under the Dr<sup>s</sup> care.

The duty is as follows, rise at 5 Oclk A. M., Breakfast at 6. Guard mounting at 8, this takes usually one hour.

The old (guard of the previous 24 hours) guard is then marched to their quarters and dismissed after posting the new guard, which is divided into four districts and each district into four reliefs.

The first relief goes on at 9 Oclk. and is relieved by





the second at 1 oclck, which is relieved by the third at 5, which is relieved by the first at 9 P. M. each standing four hours and being off eight.

The two reliefs that are not on guard being obliged to stop at their guard houses the whole eight hours excepting what time is given them to go to their quarters for their meals.

While the men are on guard they are not allowed to sit down, and must carry their musket either at Shoulder or Support, and in stormy weather at secure Arms.

This you will readily perceive is verry tiresome and there is no wonder that so few can stand to the duty long when we consider that it takes nearly half the Regt to stand each day and hence the men must go on every other day.

After the old guard are dismissed and have taken their breakfast, they must then clean their muskets and equipments, which takes the best part of the forenoon.

Dinner at 12 M. over they get untill 3 P. M. to themselves, which time is usually spent either in reading writing or sleeping.

At 3 Oclck there is a drill of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, and at 5 dress parade, 1 hour, supper at 6, tattoo (roll call) at  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , and taps (put out the lights) at 9 Oclck when we must all retire for the night and quiet must reign supreme in all Co quarters. The evenings are spent in singing, talking, reading, writing, and in some places in card, checkquer, and ches playing, the men trying to realize the truth of the old saying that "The Soldiers life is always gay."

Thus far I have spoken of the duty of others, I will now speak but a few words for myself. I am one of the Co cooks of which the Co has two, and I find quite enough to do to keep me buisey the most of the time, and perhaps I had better pass over the part which I have to play, by refering you to your Good Wife, if you would know what a cooks work is.

But I feel that there is much truth in the old saying that a mans work is from Sun to Sun, but a womans (cooks of course) work is never done.

There has been but one death in the Regt during the last month which is considered remarkable, but the most





of the Topsfield men have been sick, and out of the 13 who enlisted at Lynnfield but 5 remain and three of those are on the sick list and are about to be discharged, they are John Smith, Wm Janes, & E. Cummings, the last named was at the time of enlistment living with A. S. Peabody Esq. so that myself and John Dudley are all that will remain and both of us have been in the Hospital, and I am not well yet, nor do I expect to be so long as I have to stay here, but Dudley is very hearty and looks well.

We left Lynnfield (as you know). on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov. last and nothing of note happened to us untill we arrived at Annapolis, Md. if I except that we were well used in Boston, but badly used in N. Y. at which place we stoped 24 hours, and then after marching us all over the City the Authorities allowed us to go away tired and hungry, but the good people of Jersey City on being made acquainted with the state of affairs, on our arrival at that place provided us with a bountiful coalation and we left that place in much better humor and spirits than when we arrived.

On our arrival at Philadelphia we found that there was a nice hot breakfast in waiting for us (it being about 3 Oclk. A. M.) with butiful Lady waters ready to serve us with everything that a hungry man could wish, nice cold meats different kinds, hot coffee & tea and nice warm buis-  
ket with good sweet butter & cheese, and then the Dutch-  
mans desert, Sour Krout, sat in dishes every few feet the  
whole length of those extensive tables.

I was told that we were the 112<sup>th</sup> Regt who had eaten at this establishment since the war broke out, and not one of them had ever had to wait one moment and none had gone hungry away, and it is still kept open to feed the poor Soldier as he goes to the seat of war at the call of his Country and will continue open as long as the war lasts or there is a hungry Union Soldier, wholly by Volunteer contributions of her loyal Citizens. Long may they live to enjoy that Peace for which we are now battling the foe to our common Country.

We left P. at 6 Oclk. A. M. and in leaving bad adue to friends & kindness for we have seen none since

We arrived at Perryville about 11 Oclk where we found the Government depot for forage & teams here was a





sight, enough to surprise anyone, 15,000 mules, & about 10,000 horses with wagons, hay & grain, enough to keep them for years.

There we met with the first Soldiers that we had seen, actually in Service, the 11<sup>th</sup> Mafs. Reg<sup>t</sup>, doing guard & picket duty.

We left P. at 2 Oclk P. M. and arrived at the wharf of the Naval Academy, Annapolis, at 10 Oclk. We were quartered in the Academy buildings about 15 hours, when we were removed to the College buildings where we stopt 24 hours and then took up the line of march for our camping ground, about three miles from the City. There we pitched our tents and remained 7 weeks & 2 days, when we ordered on board the Transports.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> we were ordered to go on board the Str Hussar & Sch Hilander, the right wing (4 Cos) on board the latter, to be towed by the former which had the Band & 5 left wing Cos. We went on board on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Jan. and at daylight on the 9<sup>th</sup> we steamed off down the river into the Bay towards Ft Monroe. The sail was delightful, and about sunset on the 10<sup>th</sup> we dropped anchor in Hampton roads.

After about 24 hours delay, we left Fts M. and still towed by the Hussar, steamed away south towards Hatteras.

But a storm that had been for a number of days brewing, broke upon us on the eveng of the 12<sup>th</sup> and at daylight the next morning it was deemed prudent to cut the cable by which we were being towed and it was accordingly done and the Steamer left us to the Mercy of the Storm.

After being driven about by the wind and waves untill we were all tired of a seafaring life we at last came to an anchor just outside of Hatteras Inlet, and at the verry spot where, a few months before, Gen<sup>l</sup> Butler had landed his force. We anchored at 2 Oclk P. M. on the 14<sup>th</sup> and on the 16<sup>th</sup> were towed into the inlet and there came to anchor.

In passing into the inlet we were fortunate enough to be just in season to save the lives of the Officers of the 9<sup>th</sup> N. J. Regt. by taking them out of the water into which





they had been precipitated by the upsetting of the boat in which they were about to cross the bar to go to their Ship, having left the Ship in the morning to report their safe arrival to Gen<sup>l</sup> Burnside, but sad to tell the Surgeon and Col were both dead before we could get them on board the Hilander.

After laying at Hatteras about 3 weeks and suffering for want of food & drink, and cold and storm, we left on 5<sup>th</sup> of Feb for Roanoke, where we arrived on the Eveng of the 6<sup>th</sup>, and about 9 Oclk A. M. on the 7<sup>th</sup> the Gunboats commenced the Bombardment which lasted (as I suppose you have read and know) untill dark.

One little incident at the bombardment pleased us all, which I will here mention.

The largest gun in the fleet, 112 pds, was carried amidships of a small Sloop and was in a swivel, and as the wind was off land she had a fair wind and done fearful execution, for she would sail down by the Fort and when just opposite would let fly one of those 112 lb shot or shell and keep right on her way untill she was out of danger, and then tack about and sail up by and give them another, and so she worked and not one shot hit her for the whole day.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> were all landed about 10 Oclk P. M. and after wallowing through marsh mud knee deep about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles we came to an open field where the Division Bivoked for the night, and it rained the most of the night so that we were wet to our skins.

The next morning we took up the line of march in the following order. Mafs 25<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Conn and 51<sup>st</sup> N. Y. (Hawkins Zouaves), one Co from each Regt being left on board the Transports. After marching 2 miles (the road having a semicircular direction), the 25<sup>th</sup> came upon the rebel pickets and drove them in when the firing became general.

The 25<sup>th</sup> engaged them in their cover and the 23<sup>th</sup> were ordered to file through the swamp and flank them on their left, and to do this we must pass in front of their battery of 4 guns and all of their musketry, and it was while doing this that J. B. Lake was wounded, and we met with all our loss, for no sooner did they find that





we were through the swamp (which they had pronounced impassable) than they began to retreat, and when the Zouaves made that Gallant (?) Charge, that the papers had so much to say about, there was not a whole Rebel in the Fort or behind the breast works.

The 24 Mafs Reg<sup>t</sup> then came up with the 8<sup>th</sup> Conn and gave chase and baggd the game (3862) and we who had done the fighting rested about an hour and then started off for the Barracks which we found at the end of an 8 mile march. The Barracks consisted of about 100 log houses some 60 feet long by 15 wide, with smaller ones for Officers, &c. they were situated in the woods and were in two distinct camps, but were the most filthy habitations that I had ever sat my eyes upon, being almost alive with vermin.

Besides the Barracks there we have about 200 tents of different kinds & sizes, so that we had a decent kind of shelter.

On looking around the next day we found that besides the Prisoners & property above mentioned that had fallen into our hands, we had taken 34 cannon, 4500 stand of small armes, 3 forts, 4 batteries, and a vast amount of other property, all of which you probably informed yourself at the time.

The Island contains about 600 inhabitants of the most wretched looking people that I had ever seen, and they soon came flocking into camp with potato pies &c which our men were glad to get at any price.

The Inhabittance seemed to be a simple clever set of beings and they all claimed to be Unionists.

The Island itself is low, damp, & swampy, just the place to kill human beings, and there is no wonder that the first settlers should all have died, as you know it is a matter of history that Roanoke is the place where Raleigh attempted the first settlement in this Country.

After stopping on the Island 4 weeks (much longer than any of us wanted to stay) we again embarked on board the transports and in a few days found ourselves at anchor in the Neuse River, 15 miles below Newbern.

Early the next morning the gunboats began to shell the woods, and at 9 Oclk the troops began to land, this was the 13<sup>th</sup> of March.





The 28<sup>rd</sup> all got landed about 3 Oclk P. M. and then took up the line of march our rout lay through sand, mud swamps woods and water and on we trudged for 10 miles, every moment expecting to hear that those of our advance had engaged the enemy, but in this we were disappointed and began to think that they had escaped, for about 5 miles from where we landed we came to a deserted breastwork of about one mile in length.

Soon after we landed it commenced to rain, and the whole of that march was made through rain as well as mud, so that by the time we halted for the night we were wet through to our skins and covered with clay mud to our waists.

We came to a halt at 10 Oclk P. M. and having built fires and posted a guard we laid down around the fires and tried to sleep, but it rained so hard that sleep was out of the question, and we pased the night as best we could.

Early in the morning we were ordered into line and again started on the march, and in a short time we were filed into the woods to the left.

We had not gone far when I saw Lient Col Merrit changing his coat (this was the last time I ever saw him) and he gave the Order "by the right fall into line." This brought the right of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to rest on the left of the 27<sup>th</sup>, and when we were filing into line we could see (through the wood) the Enemies breastworks with their heads just above the top.

The sight was but for a moment, for the big gun from the Hilander had got into position and let fly a 12<sup>th</sup> shell which opened the ball, when a volly of Cannister, Shrapnel, Grape, Bomshells & Musketry burst upon us and the smoke and a thick fog which set in intirely hid them from our view, but although their pieces were aimed much too high to do us much damage, still at that discharge maney a poor fellow lost his life and many others were wounded, for it was at that discharge that Lient Col Merrit was killed and Capt Sawyer lost his leg.

Col Kurtz was verely self Posessed and cool and for three hours all that he would say was "Boys, load quick & aim low," and "*lay flat down when you load, Boys.*"

After expending all of our ammunition we were ordered





back about 45 paces and told to lay flat down and fix bayonets and wait for the order to Charge.

After laying a short time the musketry behind the breastwork in front and at our right intirely ceaced and it soon became evident from the repeated cheers on our left which we knew came from Gen<sup>l</sup> Reno<sup>s</sup> Brigade that we had gained the day, and on being ordered up we discovered that the enemy had wholly abandoned their works and were in full retreat towards Newbern.

We were then marched into the battery, and such a sight as there met our eyes I pray God it may never be my lot to witness again. the dead & wounded of both man & beast lay in heaps or were scattered all over the field; it was a sickening sight and we were not sorry that our Brigade (the 1<sup>st</sup>) were not ordered to stop on the field but on the contrary were ordered to march on Newbern, where it was supposed the Reb<sup>ls</sup> would again make a stand, so off we started, and a march of two hours brought us in sight of the City, which we found to be on fire, for the rebels had tried to make a stand but the presence of our gunboats had so frightened them that they tried to burn the City by setting fire to it in a Number of places and then run away; but in this they were foiled, for the crews from the gunboats went on shore, and, aided by the Negroes, succeeded in extinguishing the flames.

We crossed the Trent river in boats (the rebels having burnt the bridge) and marched through the City to that old encampment on the State Fair ground just above the City on the bank of the Neuse, which we found in much the same state and condition as those at Roanoke, save that here they had no Barracks but were all tents, and a more hungry and tired set of poor fellows I guess you never saw.

But one nights sound sleep had a good effect upon us and we arose the next morning much refreshed.

After laying in camp a few days we were sent out about 8 miles on picket and there we spent the Spring untill the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May when we were so much reduced by exposure & sickness that we were ordered into the City to do Police duty and here we are.

The climate of N. C. is some warmer than Mass. but not so much so as one would think





The soil is rich sandy loam and I should judge if properly worked would yield abundantly

Fruit is very plenty but appears to be a natural growth and I am told that there are but few grafted trees of any kinds and there is no one who understands grafting.

Vegetables of which they raise all the kinds that are raised North, and some others such as Sweet Potatoes, Peanuts, &c. are very poor but very readily bring high prices

Farming tools & stock, if I except the horses there is nothing else that a Northern Farmer would have on his farm. Why! such cows, not much larger than a yearling with us, and as poor as "Jobs Turkey," and here the shiftless fools think that 3 qts to a milking a "good mess," and if they have a cow that gives 4 or 5 qts they think she cant be beaten. Sheep can hardly stand alone, hogs, do, and they think a 200 lb Hog a wonder, and if an old Hog attains to the enormous size of 350 or 400 lbs he is a Miracle

To speak of the manners of the people here would be to talk of something that does not belong to the people of the South, for they have none, for if you ask how far it is to any place, they will answer, "Reckon it is eight Smart ways." And if you ask how many of anything anyone has got, they will tell you, "Reckon he's got Heaps."

Now such answers to those who are acquainted and understand it is all very well, but to us Yankees it is all Heathen Greek.

The Customs of the people show that they are far behind us in everything. In the Kitchen the old fashioned Dutch oven and baker supply the place of our beautiful cook stoves, and in their living & sitting rooms you will find the old open fireplace, and everything else in perfect keeping with the times when such things were used among our Grandparents.

The common donkey or tipcart is used for everything. I have seen it used for a hearse and for carriages for mourners to ride in at funerals, and a few days ago there was a happy couple come into Town to get married and they rode in a tipcart. I have also seen men taking their families to ride and all in the same stiled vehicle, the tipcart.





But the worst Custom or practice, and that which seems to prevale to a great extent among the females, is, Snuff dipping. I do not believe there is a white woman in Newbern that is not addicted to this vile & dirty habit

The way it is performed is this, they take a small tough stick and after chewing it or rather one end of it to a broom they will dip it into the snuff-box and then rub it on their gums and then dip again and put it into their mouth and chew it untill the snuff is all gone and then dip and chew again, and so continue from morning to eveng, and one can hardly pass a house where white people live without seeing that everlasting stick protruding from the mouth of some of the fair (?) daughters of the South.

But I find that I must close. Will you please excuse all mistakes, for I am obliged to write amid noise and confusion and no doubt have made maney mistakes which I have not time to rectify.

Pleas remember me to all my acquaintances and answer and oblige

Yours Truly

Chas. J. P. Floyd.

N. B. direct to me, Co. F, 23<sup>rd</sup> Mafs Vol. Newbern, N. C.

If it is not to much to ask I would thank you to call on Mrs. Floyd and say that you have received this and look at my trophies.

C. J. P. F.

Topsfield, &c.

To Doct. Thomas Manning, Surgeon of Col. Wades' Regiment of Militia.

The bearer, Solomon Averell, enrolled as a soldier in my company, having lost the use of the fore finger of his left hand, is in my opinion unfit to perform military duty, and I, therefore, shall make no objection to his being discharged.

I am, with respect yours &c

J. B. Capt. of the  
company in Topsfield.





This may Certify whome It may Concearn y<sup>t</sup> John pirkins a Soldier under y<sup>e</sup> Comand of Liuet Brackett was releast out of his Majesties Servis y<sup>e</sup> 13 day of November and hath his Liberty to go home to Toppsfield as Atest pr mee Thomas Butler Clerk of s<sup>d</sup> Company.

#### SPECIFICATIONS OF A HOUSE FOR NABBY PERKINS.

This is a plan of the floor of a house 40 feet by 30 and the following is a statement how it is to be executed. First the timber is to be hewed well and then framed well. Boarding the roof, boards jointed, the sides and ends featheredge and put on well. A cornice and bed mould for the covings and weather boards with a cornice, And then shingled and a scuttle on the roof; also corner boards and warter tables and window frames for 24 squares and 20 for the chamber said frames are to be made in the fashion called sunk frames with a full architrave also doors the front door in the dorick order the end one in the tuscan order and the whole to be clapboarded all to be done in a workman like manner. The inside first an under floor over the whole laid well also a garret floor jointed and harved and laid well also back stairs from the bottom of the suller up to the scuttle also the front entry is to be finished with one run of stairs with a twist and ramped rail and square banesters said entry is to be dadod with base and capping also cornice and wide fasha, with flutes and spaces with full architrave round doors and windows also upper floors plained and laid well the front room is to be finished with dadod base and capping and plain cornice fasha with full architrave round all the doors and windows also a chimney piece with plain mouldings also sliding shutters to all the windows also a plained floor all to be done in a workman like manner. The chamber over said room is to be finished the same as the room excepting window shutters. The kitchen is to be finished in a plain and workman like manner with ceiling with plain boards up to the windows or higher if necessary also sliding shutters and all the closets in the rooms and chambers also one small room to be finished in a plain manner with a chimney piece and dado base and coping





with plain cornice and shutters to the windows. The chambers over s<sup>d</sup> rooms to be finished with a fasha and mop boards and plained floors over the whole. The doors for the lower part to be 6 pannels and 6 feet 6 inches high and 2 feet 8 inches wide, the chamber to be 4 pannels. The out side doors are 7 feet high 3 feet 4 inches wide. Please to excuse my negligence and bad writing.

Nabby Perkins

To Jacob Towne 3<sup>rd</sup>

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THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN LIEUT BENJAMIN TOWNE  
AND REV. JOHN EMERSON.

For Lieut Benj<sup>m</sup> Towne  
In Topsfield

Sir, this comes to let you know that I am ready at any Time to meet you at Capt. Goulds and There discourse with you in a friendly and Christian manner, provided you desire it & give me timely notice when you would meet, also what you would discourse upon & whom you design to bring w<sup>th</sup> you if you were offended at any Thing, why did you not observe y<sup>e</sup> Rule in *Matthew* 18, 15, 16, & come when in y<sup>e</sup> Spirit of Love & meekness, which I Should have took well at your hands, and endeavor to have removed y<sup>e</sup> grounds of your uneasiness. But obs<sup>e</sup> what unkind Treatment have I had—shou<sup>d</sup> I deal with you as you have done by me, how hard, hard, hard, would you think it to be?

But I pray God to forgive you and give you Repentance for all your sins in Heart and Life, for now as well as later. O Think on your ways, and Turn unto y<sup>e</sup> Lord. Beware of y<sup>e</sup> snares which y<sup>e</sup> adversary is laying for your precious Soul, and dont let y<sup>e</sup> present Blessed leason of grace slip away. Time is oh, how exceeding precious, improve it, I Entreat you, in preparing for a Blessed Eternity you are grown something in years, surely tis Time to see to it that your peace is made with God, and as an Evidence of it that you have Christ found and living in you.





M<sup>r</sup> Town, I Cou<sup>d</sup> speak of Things which would not be very pleasing to you to hear of: but far be it from a minister of Chrif to return evill for evill—no, I have not so learned Chrif. But from his word I learn in *Corinth*: 4, 12, 13, being reviled to Bles, being persecuted to suffer it, being defamed to Entreat. oh! I hope I shall be Enabled to pray heartily for you, and seek and study your Best good, notwithstanding y<sup>e</sup> very hard and grievous Treatment I have met with: if I may believe what I hear.

May God Bless you and your family, and may I see you become a new man even a new, created in Chrif Jesus, my heart would rejoice, even mine.

M<sup>r</sup> Town, Tho I have suffered so much yet I wish you Pardon, Peace grace & glory through Christ, as I do for my own soul, and so I subscribe myself, your injured and aggrieved

Pastor John Emerson

Topsfield, February 17, 1745-6

Rev. Sir,

I have received your Letter of the: 17<sup>d</sup> Instant 1745 and observe in it that you subscribe your selfe your injured and aggrieved pastor and in the same paper you ask me why I did not take the Rule in Matthew 18: 15, 16, and Come to you alone in y<sup>e</sup> spirit of Love and meekness, which you say you should have taken well at my hands. Rev. fir is not Matthew 18, 15, 16 as binding upon you as on me and if it is then why have you not attended your Duty and Come to me in Like manner: and then Rev. fir, you go on to tell of Unkind treatment & Rev. fir have I not been to you alone pray do Confider and see if you Cannot Remember it. furly I have and have also been with Company and have tould you the matter or things that I was uneasy about. did you Labour to Remove aney thing the first time; only as you brought you Negro man for a full proof of what you said and you your self said you was but a fool to him in prayer which gave me more uneasiness for I did not believe that you





did Justis to your selfe and I still believe it was not true (for your negro soon after began to Exort me and tould me that he had been to heaven and hell and he was asked how he Came to know sech things and he said m<sup>r</sup> John Baker tould him, and knowing that you ware m<sup>r</sup> Bakers teacher I could not believe what you said about your Neagro to be true) so that if your Neagro was a full proof it was no proof to me for I think he Believed the Bibble to be the only Rule to try such things as we ware discosing about by and afterward I Came to you again with two men to Discose you and after sum Discose about former things you said what have you against me Latly and I tould you that for your saying y<sup>t</sup> all persons ware born divels which sentane you justified your selfe for saying as fare as your argument would take place: yet I did not believe that you or your childs ware born divels, for if you ware you still are

And then Rev fir about five or fix months afterwards you did discose with me alone which discose I shall Refare to your Confence and not Rewrit here only say that I did not Intend that even you should have heard a word from me again of such things: but I might Justly Cry oh oh oh of Rong for it was not above five or fix Days afterwards before you Could Charge it on my selfe and others that we had not a spark of grace or the souls of men in us if we did not Voat for you to have such a certain sum of money which you named Rev. fir, pray Confidder if giving money to a Clergyman will give men grace or souls or then the Church of Room is Right for there for money men may have pardon for sin too. Rev. fir pray Consider a litel further and see if you cannot Remember that at the House of M<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Porters you Did Refuse discose with sum of us except you had sum of your party there. And Last March at your House or betwen your House and barn you took me by the hand and said you would have or see if you Could make these things eassey—that is such things as I Laid to your Charge. Rev: fir, here I shall appeal to your Consence. since which time I have held you gilty of Breaking your word and you cannot but know that y<sup>e</sup> Last Town meeting that I tould you to the same purpose: Thus Rev. fir I have





Endeavored to Clear my selfe from the Violation of Matthew 18, 15, 16, and was it not that you are my pastor Justly Remind you of Matthew 18, 17 and 19. Then Rev. fir, you tell me that you pray god for to forgive me I would add to say and say God be mericafule to me a finner and not do as the farriase did, and as to your penetrating in to my hart I think you have no bisness there Except you acknowled your selfe in Eliance to the Church of Room, and I add if you fould pray for me I desiar you would not do it as you did for John Dwinel Joseph How and Joseph Herrick and then you tell me that you desir that god would Blefs me and my famally: and I pray God if it may be for his Glory to blefs you and your famally and give you a found mind and a Right understanding in his word that if you are Continued amongst us you may Com to us in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace in Christ Jesus. Thus Rev. fir, I have Endeavourd to fhow you the unreasonableness of your Letter and fhall Venture to fubscribe my selfe your most dutifull and faithfull parricanor

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Topsfield february the 24 AD 1745/6

For Lieut Benjamin Town

In Topsfield

M<sup>r</sup> Town.

Sir I lately sent you a Letter concerning our meeting and discourfing together at Capt Goulds, wherein I gave you y<sup>e</sup> Liberty of appointing y<sup>e</sup> Time.

Now this comes to let you know that I will appoint y<sup>e</sup> Time of y<sup>e</sup> meeting provided you will but say that you desire a meeting at said Cap<sup>t</sup> Goulds, in order for a friendly Christian Discourfe there also let me know what you would Discourse upon, and whom you design to bring with you. no more at present but heartily wishing you and all yours y<sup>e</sup> special saving grace of God in Christ Jesus, I subscribe still your aggrieved minister,

John Emerson.

Topsfield February 25, 1745, 6.





Rev. fir

I Received your Letter of the 25 of February A D 1745/6 where in you say now this Comes to let you know that I will appoint the Time of the meeting provided you will but Say that you Desire it at Captn Gould in order for a Christian friendly discose there. Rev fir you have known that I did Desire to have had a frindly Discose with you and if I was wrong in my Judgment I have tould you that I Should be glad to be sett rite and I have waited on you now for two years

Neither did I Ever intend to Limit you to a place only to know whether you would discose publicly or privatly and to have notice of it time enough to prepare to meet you. and as for the things I would discose of I have told you all Redy the princaple things, and I think that for you to say nothing to me for near a year after you said you would make these things easey, and then write to me that you are Ingred and aggrevd in your former Letter and this also and never attend the Rule which you have Informed me of it Looks to me Like that other passage in Matthew which sayeth to me do as they say but not as they do. I Remain

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Topsfield february the 28, 1745-6.

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Rev fir I have Received yours of the 28 of February AD 1745/6 and hope when I can find out what is in it I f hall send you an anwser to it which I hope will be in a few Days now I am able to Ride about again

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

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Mr Town

Sir. I received your Letter but in it no answer to what I wrote you, as I think. upon Reading your Letter presently that place in Job 6, 25, came to my mind, how foreible are right words, but what doth your arguing prove! how strangely do you wander from y<sup>e</sup> Point in hand? Yea, you dont so much as mention y<sup>e</sup> main thing





I wrote to you about in my letter concerning our meeting at Cap<sup>t</sup> Goulds &c. was not that y<sup>e</sup> main thing, and was not that proposed or supposed to be y<sup>e</sup> means of making things easy? Strange then y<sup>t</sup> you should not say one word in all your Long Letter about it. I leave it now to your own Conscience to tell you who neglects y<sup>e</sup> means of Peace: Surely if you had desired an accommodation you would have took me up at y<sup>e</sup> first offer made you in my first Letter or in y<sup>e</sup> next & then by this Time we might have had a free & friendly Discourse. you Endeavour to Clear your self from y<sup>e</sup> violation of y<sup>t</sup> Rule in Matthew 18, 15. But you dont do it; m<sup>r</sup> Town, Did you ever come to me alone, in a Christian manner, & take me alone & tell me y<sup>e</sup> grounds of your uneasiness, or did you Ever take one or two of y<sup>e</sup> Brethren of y<sup>e</sup> Church & so Come and take y<sup>e</sup> Second Step and tell me you were come to deal with me, according to our Saviours Rule? Surely you cant say with any Justice y<sup>t</sup> Comeing with one or two persons y<sup>t</sup> were offended as well as you, that this was observing y<sup>t</sup> Excellent Rule of Christ in Matthew do you think when y<sup>e</sup> Rule says take one or two more y<sup>t</sup> this can possibly intend or mean y<sup>t</sup> this one or two should also be persons that are alike offended or agrieved: tis Contrary to Reason to think So & I verily believe there is not one Divine in y<sup>e</sup> world but what would Think it a perverting y<sup>e</sup> Rule to do Thus? So y<sup>t</sup> m<sup>r</sup> Town, I believe it will be best for you no longer to insist upon This, for I believe y<sup>t</sup> no unprejudiced Person in y<sup>e</sup> world of a sound understanding will think y<sup>t</sup> you have duly attended y<sup>t</sup> Rule in Matthew. And if you thot y<sup>t</sup> you had yourself, and had taken y<sup>e</sup> first and Second step, why did you not Procead to y<sup>e</sup> third, Come and ask Leave, y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> matter might be laid before y<sup>e</sup> Church, especially when there was such an opportunity for it: for you were not ignorant I Trust, y<sup>t</sup> ye Church met Twice, not long since, but you brot none of your grievances: and Then at y<sup>e</sup> Church meeting I pressed it upon Them (if I Render it Right) to have a Council, and mentioned Such men as I supposed would be agreeable to serve as m<sup>r</sup> Rogers of Boxford, m<sup>r</sup> Clark of y<sup>e</sup> village: and put it to vote whether they would have a Council to Consider of





matters in Controversies, and it was declared in y<sup>e</sup> Church (if I understood Right) y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>r</sup> was no Controversies, and there was not a hand up as I coul See for having a Council and now then why is there all this noise, who is y<sup>e</sup> man by whom y<sup>e</sup> offence cometh & to whom does y<sup>e</sup> wo Belong? Your own Conscience, m<sup>r</sup> Town, will tell you if you will Suffer it to Speak: to allude to Matt. 18, 17, y<sup>e</sup> Place you cited me too in your Letter.

The Church & Town I believe would fain be at peace & quiet, I desire y<sup>t</sup> you would not do any Thing to hinder it.

You come in your Letter to cast Some Reflection on me, Respecting y<sup>e</sup> Church of Rome, giving money to a Clergyman &c. But how groundless is This, did I ask you or y<sup>e</sup> Town to give me money? dont you know y<sup>t</sup> I ask it as a Due Debt & insist upon it as an act of pure Justice y<sup>t</sup> my Salary be made good to me and how you can Subscribe your self my faithfull Parrishioner (as you do in your Letter) and not Endeavour to do me Justice in y<sup>t</sup> matter, is what I cant reconcile with Truth. you mention about penetrating into y<sup>e</sup> heart & being in allyance &c M<sup>r</sup> Town, I do from y<sup>e</sup> very Bottom of my Heart, I hope, abhor all y<sup>e</sup> Corruptions of y<sup>t</sup> apostolic Church of Rome, and I am offended for such unchristian insinuations for which you have not y<sup>e</sup> least Shadow of any Reason as I know of.

And as for penetrating into your Heart &c whoever pretended to This? is not y<sup>e</sup> Tree known by y<sup>e</sup> fruit? have not wise and good men been much Stumbled at your Conduct? have you not by what has been visible given to persons of a sound mind and a right understanding occasion of offence? I must needs tell you, M<sup>r</sup> Town, y<sup>t</sup> you are a very unsuitable person to Throw Dirt and cast Reflections and indeed tis Enough to make any one wonder y<sup>t</sup> you could find it in your Heart to Send me Such an unchristian Letter, stuffed with so many Reflections, when you know my Letter to you, y<sup>e</sup> Language of it & you can Judge no farther, breathed So much Love to you, Love to your soul, to your precious Soul, & courage for you, & for yours also. you have a Hint about my Continuing &c. as to y<sup>e</sup> matter. I hope I shall leave it with





God and be willing to be where my Dear Lord & Master Jesus Christ woud have me to be and do & suffer what Shall call too: and I hope He will Enable me to make a profitable improvement of y<sup>e</sup> Trouble I meet with from you.

Moreover, you say in your Letter, I refused to discourse with some of you &c without some of my Party (as you term it) were there at M<sup>r</sup> Porters, &c. and indeed, M<sup>r</sup> Town, had I not need, & have I not occasion to be carefull whence I have so much Reason to Think y<sup>t</sup> either you have not understood me at some time when I have spoke or else have not put y<sup>e</sup> fair candid construction upon my words as you ought to have done, but took Them, or Explained them into Such a Sense or meaning and carry Such an idea as never came into my Heart. M<sup>r</sup>. Town, whatever I have said to you or before you, I could wish a Thousand wise & good men had been in y<sup>e</sup> Hearing of and as for my preaching, glory to free gives alone, y<sup>t</sup> I have so much Reason to hope it has been a favour of Life unto Some precious Souls: however you have been at any Time displeased with it.

M<sup>r</sup> Town, I hope, if you show to any one a copy of your Letter to me, you will be so Just as to read y<sup>m</sup> this answer, and then I think, if you triumph, they will see, at least y<sup>e</sup> unprejudiced, y<sup>t</sup> you do it before you have got acusatory. I Could Say much more by way of answer, but if we have a friendly Discourse, I may speak by word of mouth.

M<sup>r</sup> Town if you Shall See cause to write again as I woud have you write seriously, pertinently to y<sup>e</sup> Point in hand, and reason Justly, so I desire y<sup>t</sup> you would Send me a direct plain answer to this question, whether you desire to meet me at Cap<sup>t</sup> Goulds as proposed to you in my former letters. I hope I do, w<sup>th</sup>out any Hesitation, wish you & your family all y<sup>e</sup> Blessings of y<sup>e</sup> New Covenant and can assure you y<sup>t</sup> I am willing things may be accommodated upon a righteous foundation, and am your agrieved minister at present.

John Emerson.

Topsfield, Febury 28, 1745-6.





18-1 P. S. Mr Town Look upon these few Lines as a Postscript to y<sup>e</sup> inclosed Letter.

You ask in your Letter whether if in Matthew &c be not binding on me &c. did I not Come to your House, take you alone & in a friendly manner discourse you a great while? But I would have you know y<sup>t</sup> I have great Reason to be aggrieved for your Talk abroad of late & not coming to me according to y<sup>e</sup> Rule in Matt: &c & how have you Expoused your self, in Endeaving to reproach your minister? in your Letter you say & say Right y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Bible is y<sup>e</sup> Rule &c why y<sup>n</sup> dont you observe it? your Bible tells you in 1 Tim. 5, 1, Rebuke not an Elder but Entreat him as a Father.

Now has your Treatment of me & my Character been like y<sup>t</sup> of a dutifull Child to his Father? Let Conscience speak. you say y<sup>t</sup> I would See if I could make this easy &c. what could you Expect more than I am doing, Seeking after a friendly Discourse w<sup>th</sup> you &c. before wife & good men; indeed I never Said any Thing to you, as I know of, y<sup>t</sup> deserves Such Treatment as I have had: y<sup>e</sup> Least Degree of true Charity would Cover a Thousaud fold greater offence than ever I gave you: perhaps at y<sup>e</sup> most it may be but only Some Defect in y<sup>e</sup> memory, or Some word misplaced, or a Slip of y<sup>e</sup> Tongue, & it may be not y<sup>t</sup> neither, but you misunderstood me, it might be. oh! Mr Town what have you done y<sup>t</sup> has provoked God to leave you to fall in to so great a Sin, as y<sup>t</sup> of Contending with your minister: I refer to your Conscience: you Shall find me ever ready to accomodate matters, Let me but see a becoming humble Christian Behaviour, &c. I subscribe your aggrieved minister as before.

J : E :

For Lieu<sup>t</sup> Benjamin Town

In Topsfield

Rev Sir.

I Recd your letter of y<sup>e</sup> 28 of feb<sup>r</sup> last wherein you say you Recd. my letter but in it No answer as you think &c and you say I Do not so much as mention y<sup>e</sup> main things Rev Sir you ask<sup>d</sup> me why I Did Not Take y<sup>e</sup> Rule in Mat.





18-15-16 I Did answer you to y<sup>e</sup> Point which is a main Point to answer Such Texts of Scripture

you Now ask me weather you Did Not Come to my house, Take me alone &c Rev Sir your Discorse was about my uneasiness only, but you Did not Say anything about any agreviance of yours then Nor at any other Time therefore I think y<sup>e</sup> Text of Scripture was a main point to answer. Seeing y<sup>t</sup> you Sign<sup>d</sup> your letter y<sup>t</sup> you was Injured &c for to Show you y<sup>t</sup> I tho<sup>t</sup> you had violated y<sup>t</sup> Scripture ; in Telling me you are Ready for meeting &c and you have Selected to Take y<sup>e</sup> Rule in Matt. afores<sup>d</sup>: if you had fulfild what you Declard you would when you was at my house : you Never would have heard anything more from me about them things : you ask me whather Ever I came to you alone and you ask Severall questions of y<sup>t</sup> Nature &c Rev. Sir I have been with you alone and Told you y<sup>e</sup> matters of my uneasiness : and you gave me your word once and again that you would make them things easey : and I have Discorsed with you in Company : you ask me why I Did not Take y<sup>e</sup> Third Step : Rev. Sir you Did Say you would make things Eafey : and I waited on you Expecting you would make them Eafsy as you said you would : you speak about your preffing it upon y<sup>e</sup> Church for a Councel : and say you mentioned Such men as you Supposed would be Exceptable to me : m<sup>r</sup> Rogers & m<sup>r</sup> Clarke : Rev. Sir if there be Need of a Council they are Exceptable to me : you Say I Come in my letter to Cast Sum Reflections on you : Respecting y<sup>e</sup> Church of Rome giveing money to a Clergy man &c Rev Sir I apprehend you have made No answer at all to y<sup>t</sup> part of my letter : for in my letter I say you Charg<sup>d</sup> it on myself and others y<sup>t</sup> we had Not a spark of Grace or y<sup>e</sup> Souls of men in us : if we Did not vote for you to have Such a Cartain Sum of money which you Named : and I think my letter is not So much Stufed with Reflections Nor so much Dirt throued as there is in yours : you say is Not the Tree known by the fruit : Rev Sir I think I have seen and heard you Taken Screaming and Crying out for fruit and you said y<sup>t</sup> they were brought home to Christ : you ask me weather good men have not been Stumbled at my Conduct &c Rev Sir I





think I might ask you y<sup>e</sup> Same question : you say you hope if I shew to any body a Copy of my letter to you &c Rev fir I think you Cast great Reflections Concerning my Triumping and I think you are a very unfutable to Reflect in such a maner then Rev. Sir you Come to say oh m<sup>r</sup> Town what have you Done that has prevoked God to Leave you to fall in to so great a fin &c Rev. Sir if it is a fin I feear it was for Voating for you to be a fee-tled Minister amongst us and since you have been so great againes by the Consequence you need not so Cry out

Then Rev Sir you Come to tell me that I say in my letter and say Right that the bible is the Rule, and then you say why dont you observe it your bible tells you in 1 Tim. 5, 1, &c. Rev Sir dost you not know that that text is directly Contrary to what you intend or have you been Rapt up in the Contemplation of your Letter and the praise it would bring to you that you have not had time to Look in to your Bible to see it was Paul's Exhortation to Timothy how he should behave him selfe towards all ages. here Realy fir you have wanderd from the point (then Rev. Sir you say.) you shall find me very redy to acomidate matters &c Realy Sir I have waited years on you with all the becoming mean or temper I Could and you have not done it yet, and by the tenor of your Letter I think you never Intend to do it. then Rev. Sir I have Indeavored to shew you that I did not wander from the main point and my argumen is good, for in Math. 18, 15, 16 it dont say that I shall take Church member but one or two that is whome I pleas. so that Job 6, 25 may Come in to your mind again when you Read your Letter with those texts of scripture you sent to me you may see that such a minister as you can be mistaken, but I do Earnestly Intreet you to Complioy with your duty and then I hope we shall have a speedy settlement of all the matters of uneasiness I Remain your Reconfialable Frind & Parichtioner

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Topsfield march 28<sup>th</sup> 1745-6





For Lieut<sup>t</sup> Benj<sup>m</sup> Town  
In Topsfield

Mr Town

Sir. I received your Letter of march 28<sup>th</sup> and would observe to you that y<sup>e</sup> main Thing at Present in Controversie between us by Letters, you still neglect to resolve me in, that is, whether or no, you will meet me at Cap<sup>t</sup> Goulds, in order for a friendly Conference There, as proposed to you in my first or Second Letter, which if you will do Then will I Endeavour as God Shall Enable me, I hope, in y<sup>e</sup> meekness of wisdom to give you an answer to your Letter by word of mouth But if you decline meeting of me at Cap<sup>t</sup> Goulds, Let me know it, and Then by writing in Convenient Time, I will Endeavour to send you a futable answer to your Letter of march 28<sup>th</sup> I remain your aggrieved but yet Reconciliable Pastor

John Emerson

Topsfield April 22, 1746

Rev fir

I Received your Letter of April 22, 1746, with these words in it, y<sup>t</sup> is and would observe to you that y<sup>e</sup> main thing at Present in Controversie between us by Letters you still neglect to resolve me in &c Rev fir i would observe to you that is not true for you did in your Letter of febr<sup>y</sup> 17: 1745-6 ask me why I did not take the Rule in Matthew 18. 15. 16. I did write to you that I had in sum measure taken that Rule with you and I still think that I have attended that Rule as fare as Is needfull with any honest well meening man and you still subscribeing your Letters aggrieved and tell me you are still for a meeting and you never have attended the Rule in Matthew aforesaid no not so much as to one single word then how Can you be still for a meeting if the bible hath aney force on you or you had aney Confiance you would be a shamed of such kind of treetment to write time after time of main pints—and you Live in the Violation of Mat<sup>a</sup> aforesaid: Rev fir you know that the main point that I Insisted on at M<sup>r</sup> Israel Clarks with you you said your self was Rea-





sonable and Just: and I now tell you that I Cannot believe you are Just or honest to Live in the Neglect of your known duty, for it is said in Matth 5. 23. 24 you should go and be Reconciled &c Except you will allow you selfe to be pointed at in these other Scripturs Viz in Isai. 56- 10-11-12 & Isai. 65. 5. 6, & Jer. 5. 30. 31 & Jer. 23. 1. 2. & Ezek. 34 Chap and Micha. 3. 5. 6 and in your paper of february the 28, 1745-6 you ask me why is there all this noise who is the man &c Rev Sir I tell you y<sup>t</sup> you are the man, and that you say in Sd paper—the Church and Town I believe would fain be at peace and quiete &c Rev fir I believe they would be at peace & quiete ware it not for you but I cannot Spend time to Remark Long Letters for I am not a fallary man—Neither do I geet my Living by Lying or Cheeting—but to Return to your paper of Apriel 22 Rev fir you say which if you will do &c fir I should Reioyce to see a spirit of meekness and true wisdome in you and not so much of the Conterary spirit and then fir you say: But if you Decline meeting me at Cap<sup>m</sup> Goulds &c fir had you been a man of an honest mind you would have had a meeting at Cap<sup>m</sup> Gould or sum other place Long before now, and had I known you would have had no more Regard to your word you should have had a meeting at sum other place before now, without any of this noise: but to Come to a Close, fir please to take to your selfe Ezek. 8, 14, 15 & Ezek 13, 22, 23. I Still Remain in Topsfield and am

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne.

June the 16, 1746

Rev. fir In your paper of aprill the 22 1746 you tell me of Endeavring to send me a sutable answer to my Letter &c. fir I Expected when you had done at Bradford you would be at lasur so that you might find out wat is ment in 1 tim 5. 1. but I think you had rather search after other mens faults then to correct your own, and I beleive it is more pleasing to you to find fault with other men if you have no reason for it then to mend of your own mis-carriages—for what man of an honest mind and believing the bible to be a Rule for him to walk by dare cote Math.





18. 15. 16 for a rule for another man to walk by and at the same time he him selfe is guilty of the Vilation of Math afore said as I think you be Except to be a pharisy which I fear you be for it is said in Math 23. 3 for they say and do not Vers 5 for all their works they do to be seen of men—fir you have signed all your papers Injured, but you never Came to tell me what it was for:—fir in one of your papers you say shoud I deal with you as you have done by me &c: fir I now tell you that when I did deal with you I did deal honestly and did not Cheat you by Lying. (fir I desire you to Remember what treetment we have had from you, stripping open your boosom and threethning to spend your blood &c.) and in one paper you say I could Speak of things which would not be very pleasing to you &c fir that you have done maney a time for I did not believe they ware true; and in the same paper you say no I have not so Learned Christ: fir if you have Learned anything of Christ Lett me see a proof of it by your Complioying with his work Especially in Math. 18. 15. 16. fir if you Can sitt still & be Easely to take my money from me and reioyce in it with your party as you termed them when you do me no service, I think you are rightly described in Hosea 4. 9. there Shall be Like people Like priest, and 2 of peter 2. 2. 3 and maney Shall follow their pernices ways—and throug Contiousness shal they with fained words make merchandise of you: but if it be so fir that your party is the biggest host not thy selfe of to morrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth fir I understand that you find salt that mens Seets are empty: fir I do reely beleive you are the cose of it. Reed 1 of Sam. 2. 17. for men abhorred the offerings of the Lord: fir you know what your Conduct hath been and if it was good why have you dwindled it away: and if bad why dont you make satisfaction and so put an end to all the matters of uneasiness Sir I am directed in Romans 16-17-18 now I beseech you brethren mark them which Cose devisions and offences Contrary to the doctrine which ye have Learned and avoid them, for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches Deceive the hart of the simple





fir I think you are the man. fir you tell me in one of your papers of Casting Reflections and puting a rong Confruction on your words fir in both articles I think you are a Wild Gentleman to write as you have done, and I begin to think that you are but a fool to your Negro man as you said was — or a — as you Said you was born. fir I have shown your Letters as you Desired I would and I think you have no Concance to delay matters as you have done. fir if you should be pledd to write to me write so that I may Reed it with out so much trouble of transcribing it for I think it penants enough to Reed your works

fir I am not afraid of your great words, and should be glad to have a trial before good men, and not newlits or your party as you termed them. Observe it is you that have signed your selfe Injured, and it is I that desire a fair trial, and it is you that Said you would make things Eassey

I am Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne and Live in Topsfield on South side of the River

Topsfield January the 22nd 1746/7

There was in a City a judge which feared not God, neither regarded man. M<sup>r</sup> Emerson fir, in your papers you tell me of love to & for me and for my precias soul, and tell me that I am grown sumthing in years—and so you run on as if you had not known that I lived in the woods, and so you might feare me with your nois or deceive me with Judas treatment but being foretould in Mat. 7. 16, do men gather granes of thorns or figs of thifels so I think you have proved your self as a thorn or a thifel to me in Refusing to Complioy with Matt. 18-15-16, for you did tell me that you would make things eassey—that is such things as I Charged you with—and the next news I heard from you, you was Injured & agreved, but you never have been so good as to tell me what it was for but I suppose it was for my telling you the truth or telling the truth about you, and if that be the Case you may Justly say it is a bad report and so set still and geet all the money you Can and Cheet honest men out of their Right, for I think by your silance you Consent to it that the





Bible hath no force on you, and that you have no Con-  
ciance as I have hinted to you before—and if so then how  
do you deliver your soul as in your mighty heat you  
bragd you would so that I may Justly think you are one  
of them that was struck by a bad spirit or y<sup>e</sup> D—l as I  
think you said sum ware and if so no wonder that you did  
think you were but a fool to your Negro man in prayer  
as you said you was fir in one of your papers you hint  
as if I made to lite with your Character fir Consider  
how you have tosed other mens names even when they  
Came for publick prayers, and remember how you have  
treated me. and then take a Review of your own actions  
with an unpredigised eye even to Newbery, and see how  
famous you would be if you was there, and see whether  
you can now tell who is femingly brought home or new  
born by aney of these screemings or yellings that you  
declared to be such a gloris work fir I Realy think that  
you have been an enthusiasles slanderous and Delusive  
parson and have been permitted to fall in to repeted delib-  
erate most publick Comprehensive and pernicious Viola-  
tions of the holy Laws of god for if you had been in  
your right reason or ware now I think you would make  
satisfaction for many of your disorderly actions, and I  
think now you dare not tell how you did produce such  
Effects upon parsons bodys to make them screem and yell  
in such a manner and then for you to laugh or smile and  
declare these parsons ware Savingly brought home to  
Christ, is what I cannot Reconfile with truth in you. fir  
you tell me in one of your papers that I am a very Un-  
sutable parson to throw dirt and Cast reflections &c fir  
I think you are a sutable parson to throw dirt and Cast  
Reflections, since you have been struck or turnd a new  
Light and I think you take that way to prevoke others to  
Love and good works—and you term your self a faithfull  
Minister of Christ, which I Cannot reconfile with truth  
in you four you Live in the Violation of Math 18. 15. 16  
(so that) thou that makest thy boast of the Law throug  
breaking the Law dishonourest thy God Rom. 2, 1. 2. 3,  
therefore thou art Incapable O man—for wherein thou  
Judgest another thou Condemneth thy selfe: fir you  
may have wickednefs enoughe In your hart to say that





you have not Judged but if you should it would be false in you and you have said you Could not be mistaken by no means, so that you are as Enfalable as the Pope:

Topsfield July 31, A. D. 1747

pr me

Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne

Sir Observe all the New lits abraid me with my Voating for you to be fetled in topsfield and I believe one half of the people would be glad to have you Removed from the Office we put you in to August the 18 A. D. 1747

I am Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne

one of the freeholders in Topsfield

Sir

having heard that you find falt with me that I have not sent you a perticelar answer to your paper of february 25, 1745-6, I do asure you that I did write you an answer to your letter of that date after this manner Rev. fir, in your paper of february 25, 1745-6 you say: now this Comes to let you know that I will appoint the time &c. fir you have asigned your self aggrieved and I think it is your place to appoint the time and if Matth 18. 15. 16 be binding on you, then my house is the place and not Cap<sup>n</sup> Goulds. and you may remember that you did promis me that you would make them things Easely that I said you was to blame for, and you have neglected that allmost one year Contrary to your word and promise, and I suppose you will neglect the time you spoke of till you think men will be weared out for I Realy believe you dont regard your word any more than the fals prophets of old did who measured them selves by them selves &c and you say also, let me know what you would discofe upon and whome you desire to bring with you &c. fir I think for an aggrieved minister to write after that manner to one of his parisinors and never tell him what he is aggrieved for is Contrary to the Rules of the gospel and seemeth Like your selfe, for if you are aggrieved certainly it is your bisness to tell what it is for, for the word faith go and tell him, so that if you have aney Regard to that gospel you pretend to preach you have mistook your self as





much as you did when you said you was but a fool to your Negro man in prayer

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Topsfield february the 28, 1745-6

Sir you may by Comparing if you have not Lost the other fee this is a Copy of the same Letter Except the three top Lines. Sir I desire you to tell nothing but what is true as I do about you. Topsfield October the 13, 1747

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Convened and mett to gether this second day of November A D 1747 the humble petition of Benjamin Towne of said Topsfield humbly sheweth that he hath not attended the publick worfhip of God at Topsfield (by Reason of M<sup>r</sup> Emersons being fals to his word and promis) for more then one year and half Last past wherefore my desire is that you would abate my Rate to the ministry in Topsfield from that time to this, and in so doing you will oblige yor petitor.

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Rev. Sir

Whereas on the 19 Day of november 1747 you Did Defire me to give you in writing the reasons of my uneasiness with you by the second Day of December 1747. Rev. sir in Obedience to your Request, I preceed to say in the first place by your pretending to tell who was gone to hell and who should go to hell in both prayer and sermon

2ly your saying that all them that Did not Come in before that prayer was Done should be Damned, I understood you into the mode of that new work.

3ly your allowing or not forbidding many Inferior or Eilrate parsons to be Exorters in the meeting house

4ly your saying if such persons should should there tongs the stons would cry out

5ly your saying that there was not a Book nor a Chapter nor a verse in the bible but that treeted on Christ

6ly your pretending to tell when parsons scemed and





made a great nois that they were favingly Brought home to Chrif and your Calling on others to give thanks for them when maney of your parisinors Did not think it was for the glory of God

7ly my Letters that I have sent to you will show you the other Reafons of my uneasiness as plain and as fully as if I should new draueft them

8ly your faying if aney parson ever flept in the meeting house they had not a fpark of grace nor the fear of God before their eyes. Rev. fir thefe with the Reafons given you in my Letters are the main and principle things of my uneafnefs as well as the uneafenets of a great maney elfe in your parrifh. I fubscribe my felfe your Reconfilable parifinor Benjamin Towne.

Topsfield December th 2, 1747.

#### Times of Difcorfe

about the Later End of the year: 1742 february first Difcofe with m<sup>r</sup> Emerson m<sup>r</sup> George Bixby was By

The Next Sabbath m<sup>r</sup> Emerson Declared that Religion Never gained aneything by Difputes but allways Lost So I for bore untill the year 1743

then firstly in a town meeting then I motioned about the flax and hiproct, after that Several times alone—and he chofe Rather to Reflect much

february 1743 With m<sup>r</sup> Emerson m<sup>r</sup> Jofeph Herrick and m<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Jun<sup>r</sup> there born Divels

then in September 1744 with m<sup>r</sup> Emerson alone in my field

then in a town meeting m<sup>r</sup> Emerson faid things and deneoyed it

then at m<sup>r</sup> Israel Clarks Thomas baker David Comins Mathew Peabedy are by

then march 1744 Difcofed with m<sup>r</sup> Emerson he promifed to make matters easy

M<sup>r</sup> Roges of Boxford and M<sup>r</sup> Clark of the Village are named if there shall be Cafe for parsons to Determine David Comings Mathew peabody Israel Clark & Quarter mafter Baker being all with me.





- 1ly for aney minister to pretend to tell who is gone to hell or who shall go to hell is what no parson can tell and therfor it is fals and ground less: Especiall in Congrational Churcheses although the Church of Room doth pretend to it
- 2ly for aney minister to pretend when he is at prayer that all such parsons as doth not Com in before that prayer be Done shall be Damned, If Limiting God and taking his work out of his hand and erecting a tribunial of their own Contrary to the known Laws of God and must yet in New England be Looked on as fals for we have not so Learned Christ but from his word we are taught Judg not that ye be not Judged and thus Renders his offrings a Corrupt thing and it may be feared he is a Deceiver and if so then Cursed be the deceiver that hath a mate and offreth to the Lord a Corrupt thing
- 3ly for aney minister to alow of or Incourage Igront or inferior parsons to be Exorters is Contrary to the known Ruls and order of the Laws of god and may be Looked upon as of a daingrous Consequence Reed the account of Uszah and of King Uziah
- 4ly for any minister to pretend that he can tell who is savorily Brought home to Christ by a suden qualm is a new standerd Erected for god only knows the hart and although we are to hope for the Best yet to declare this or that parson is savorily Brought home to Christ is what we dont know and so must be Looked upon as hath fals and groundless Judging
- 5ly for a minister to Discose with one of his parrice in private and pretend to forgit or to denie what he said may Justly give his parrifioner grounds to abhorre him
- 6ly for a minister to promis to mak the agreeviances of any one of his parrish Easey and to delay the matter year after year is nothing short of plain Lying
- 7ly for a minister to write a letter or Letters to aney one of his parrish and subscribe himself Ingrid & agreeved and to ask his parrisiner why he had not taken the Rule in math 18. 15. 16 when sd minister is gilty of the Violation of matth aforesaid is a ftraing Confounding the order of the gospel





8ly for a minister when he is in Dispute with aney one of his parrish to Declare that he is but a fool in prayer to a poor Ignorant Negro that Could not Reed nor did not know how maney gods there was must needs be Looked upon not true in it selfe and done to deceive others or to profeed from a distracted brain

9ly for a minister to pretend that parsons were Born Divels or if Children of wrath then Children of the Divel is fals and what Cannot be Reconfiled with truth for if once a Divel they Eternally will Remain fo

10ly for a minister to Refuse to Discose with severall of his parrish Except he had sum of his party there and So to devid his parishioners into partys is of Daingrous Consequence

11ly for a minister to pretend to and tell his parishioners that the Divel had sturred up ould ministers to oppose this Blessed work hath a tendancy to bring the miniftry in to Contempt and is Rash Judging and to say no wors Looketh Like founding their own trumpet as if they ware good ministers when it is to be feared they are guilty of the violation of ye holy Laws of god and he declares that which is not true for he dont know the hart

12ly for a minister to strip open his Boosom and threaten to spend his Blood in or for his will Looketh more Like a piret or a Romanlick pretender than a gospel minister in New England

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firstly for aney minister to pretend to tell who is gone to hell or who shall go to hell is what no parson can tell and therefore it is fals and groundless for aney to pretend to it, Epecially in Congregational Churches although I confesse the Church of Room doth pretend to it 2ly on the other fide 3ly for any minister to declar when he is at prayer that all parsons that did not Come in before this prayer was done would be damned Is Limiting God and taking his work out of his hands and Erecting a tribunal





of their own Contrary to the known Laws of god & must yet in New England I think be esteemed of as fals for him to say so for we have not so Learned Christ but from his word we are taught Judg not that ye be not Judged—and thus I think he Renders his offering a corrupt thing and it may be feared he is a decevir as it is said in Malachi 1-14 but Cursd be the Deceiver . . . which offreth to the Lord a Corrupt thing so I think it may be said of such a minister

2ly for M<sup>r</sup> Emerson when prayers are asked for in publick by any of his parrish by Reason of their being sick to Declar if they die they will all go to hell is Very Discourigin to others to ask prayers in Case of sickness and he declares that which he knows nothing about for God only knows the hart and God hath said in his word I will be gracious and will shew mercy on whome I will shew mercy and I think god hath not Committed the Judging of and fixing of men's Eternal Estate either in heaven or hell to any man on earth—and I think it must be esteemed of as Rafh fals and Eronis Judging and is Just matter of offense: although the Church of Room doth pretend to it

3ly for any minister to allow of or not forbid but Rather Incourage Ignorant or Inferior parsons to be Exorters in a Meeting House is contrary to the known Ruls & order of the Laws of god and may be Looked upon as of a daingerous Consequence; reed the account of Uzzah & of King Uzzih and is I think Just matter of offence

4ly for any Minister to Incourage any to screem and yell and make all maner of disorderly noises—and then for him to say that if these parsons should hould their tongs the stones would Cry out, must I think be accounted fals and done to Diceive others and make them think well of Bad actions

5ly for any minister to say there was not a book nor a Chapter nor a Verse in the Bible but that treeted on on Christ I think is false for the whole Book of Esther hath nothing in it about God nor Christ and I think it must be allowed fals Doctrin

6ly for any minister to declare that parsons are savingly brought home to Christ by a sudding qualm or by





grooning or fereeming is a new Doctring for god only knows the hart and allthoug we are to hope for the best yet to Declar this or that parson is saviingly brought home to Christ is what he dont know and I think it must be Looked upon as Rash fals and groundles Judging, and then to Call on others to give thanks for them—when I Realy believe the Effects was prodused by a bad art for it said that the Jesewits do produce such Effects on their Zelots and our bible tells us that Simon the Soser bewicked the people—and history tells us of the Quakers: and of the pope and of Mehamet all being under such Impulses and all making great pretencies to be spiritual men or holy father Confessers, but Even amongs the popes the want of money is a mortal sin for they it is said cant geet out of purgetory without money; so that I think it is Just matter of offence in Congregationall Churches to produce such effects and declar such things

7ly for a Minister to write a Letter or Letters to aney one of his parish and subscibe him self Incred and agreed and to ask his parisioner why he had not taken the rule in Mat 18-15-16 when said minister if he be Incred or agreed must be guilty of the Violation of Matthew aforesaid having never attend the Rule of the gospels is a straing Confounding of the order of the gospel and is Just matter of offence

8ly for a minister when he is in Dispute with aney one of his parisioners to Declar that he is but a fool in prayer to a poor Ignorant Negro that could not Reed nor did not know how many gods there was must I think be accounted not true in him or Else be not fitt for a minister and done to deceive others or Else to profed from a distracted Crasey Brain

8ly for any minister to say that if aney parson Ever slept in the meeting house they had not a spark of grace nor the fear of god before their Eyes, is Rash fals and Eronious Judging Contrary to the Rule Christ hath left in the gospel—in Matth 26-40-41-43—and he Cometh unto his disciples and findeth them asieep and said unto Peter: what Could y<sup>e</sup> not watch with me one hour: Watch and pray that ye Enter not into temptation:—the Spirit In deed is willing but the flesh is weak—and





he Came and found them a sleep again: for their Eyes were heavy here Christ doth not Condemn his disciples to be greslefs and feerless but Considers the Infirmities of the human natur and I think allthough sleeping in a meeting house Cannot be Justified to be good yet there is no minister hath a Right of Judging Parsons gracelefs for boderly Infirmities and it is Just matter of offence so to Judge Rashly

### Articals of Letters

1ly for a minister to write Letters Reflecting is Just matter of offence when he by his own Letters hath proved him self guilty of the Violation of Matth 15-15-16

2ly for Mr Emerson to say he was but a fool to his neegro in prayer, said neegro being a poor Ignorant Cretor that Could not Reed nor did not know how maney gods there was must I think be Counted fals in him or Else be not fit for a minister and done to deceve others or to say no worse to profeed from a Distracted Crasey Brain

3ly for Mr Emerson to teach the people that they are born divels: and then to Justife and say if Children of Rath then Children of the divel, Is fals doctring and what Cannot be Reconsiled with truth for if once a divel they will Eternally Remain so for Christ never died for divels nor Beasts and I think it Just matter of offence

4ly for mr Emerson to Discose with me alone in private and pretend to forgit or denoy what he said, may Justly give me grounds to abhore him and Count him a Covenant Braker

5ly for mr Emerson to charge it on maney of the Town that they had not a spark of grace nor the souls of men in them if they did not Voat for him to have such a sum of money which he named, seemeth as if he would make them believe that grace and souls ware purchased of him by money—and is much Like that of persons giving money to geet out of purgetory—and then when he is Charged with saying such words in a few minits after he said it boldly to denoy it—Is nothing short of plain Lying

6ly for Mr Emerson to Refuse to Discose with severall





of his parriſh Except he had ſum of his party there and fo to devide his pariſioners in to partys is of daingerous Conſequence and hath a tendency to make one abhore him and Rendreth him not fit for a Miniſter to one party

7ly for mr Emerson to promiſe that he would make my agreviancies Eaſey and to delay the matter year after year I think Looks as if he had no regard to his word or the good of my ſoul—and yearly to take my money when he doth me no ſervice i think is not Juſt nor honeſt nor agreeable to his own advice to ſum other people.

8ly when prayers are aſked for by aney of Mr Emersons pariſh for him to declare if they ſhould die they would go to hell is Juſt matter of offence—and is Contrary to the goſpel according to James the 5 Cha 14 & 15 verſes Is aney ſick among you let him call for the Elders of the Church and Let them pray over him anointing him with oyl in the name of the Lord—15 and the prayers of faith ſhall ſave the ſick and the Lord ſhall Raiſe him up: and if he hath Committed ſins they ſhall be forgiven him here the apoſtle dont ſay that the Elders ſhall ſay they are guilty of damnable ſins and if they Die they will go to hell neither hath god Committed the Judging of Mens Eternal Eſtate to aney miniſter on Earth, althoug there are Corrup fals teachers that doth pretend to it and I think it is a ſhame to aney in New England to pretend that ſuch prayers are agreeable to the word of god, and that they are not offended at it

9ly for m<sup>r</sup> Emerson to write as he did in his Letter of Apriel y<sup>e</sup> 22. 1746 that is and would obſerve to you that the main thing at preſent betwen us by Letters you ſtill neglect to Reſolve me in—I think theſe words in Mr Emersons Letter muſt be fals as I have obſerved to him in my Letter and Carrey in them the natur of a lie—for in his firſt and third Letters to me he Spent great part of his time in his writing in Charging me with the Violation of Matth. 18. 15. 16. and in three of my Letters before to him I had Endeavored by Numbrs of Inſtances to ſhow him that I had in ſum good meaur obſerved the Rule in Matthew aforeſaid with him and Mr Emerson and I never had changed a word together about our meeting at Cap<sup>tn</sup> Goulds as I know of ſo that to meet at Cap<sup>tn</sup>





Goulds could not be a main thing in our Letters—no nor so much as worthy the name of a thing in Comparison with matthew aforefaid

Artical 10 your Wishing that there Never was aney more salt nor Rum to Come to the Contry

Answer: her fir as you have Landed your disceose against the Salvation of mens souls—for if once a Divel they will Efernialy Remain so—and to perswad People to believe you you have tould us that the divel had stired up old Ministers to oppose the work of god—so in this Artical you Even Level yourself against the good of mankind by distroying the greatest branch of trade in this Contry for if it was not for salt there Could not be aney salt fish trade, nor any meet fitt to eat in the heit of Sumer Except it ware for dogs: and would aney man in his Right Reason wis h so much hurt to his fellow Creaturs as at one blast to destroy both soul and body: for if it ware not for salt we Could not maintain no trad at home or abroad and must fall a sacrifice to our Enemis: if this be Just you may as well wish that ther never might grow aney more Corn becase sum gluttens parsons eat a great quantity of pooden, and fertianly I have seen you to use salt at a table and to drink Rum at a tavern—but to Close all I Cannot think you are fitt for a Minister to wish so much hurt to your fellow Creeturs to deprive them of what god hath made for their Comfort—but to say no worce I Realy believe what Mr Emerson said did procede from a Distracted Crasey brain—for if this was once brought to pass there Could not be money to pay ministers and if men believed they was then they had as goods hire the Divel as you

the reasons why I think the Revernd Mr John Emerson to have been in an Erroer his Declaring Saul was as Certainly in hell as David in heaven: and Declaring manassa was Sertnly in or gone to heaven—and maney other things of the Like Natur and at John Dwinels funrel when he had made a great noise and made sum parsons to Run about saying here is hell and there is hell and others Crying out Cursing their prid and hard harts he Set down and smiled or Lafed which was his Comon





practis after wards for sum time and then on a Sabbath day when there had been screeching belowing and yelling as I thought Like the Resemblence of hell he came in and gave thanks that there was a shaking amongst the dry bones & that the voice of the spouse was heard a far off and at other times he would Lement the with Draw of the Spirit when there was not such Like uproar I heard Mr Emerson say that the Divel had ftired up sum ministers to appose this good work and he declared that parsons Could not help Crying out then a wooman in Child birth

Mr Emerson Discosed with me in my Brick yard September 1744 and after a long discose about the new work of striking Mr Emerson Said to me he was not the only minister that had been mistaken about these times and that it had been a time of great delusions and that things had not turned out as he Expected and that he believed there was maney good ministers had been mistaken in these things and he Said I might fee he was a Coming off from them by his Sermon he preached the Last Sabbath and I tould him if he was fensable he had been in a Rong way he ought publickly to tell the people of it and he said if he should there was a great many of them that was that way would be worce agains him then I was and he said it would be a difficult thing to be a minister and he said I must forgive him for ministers ware but men and pass by all offences and I tould him I Could freely Do it if I thought he was fencer in what he said, and he said he was and desired me to give him my hand and i tould him i desired to prove him seven days i ment in publick for which i Coted the Case of mariames being a lepard And for Mr Emerson to Charg it on us that we had not a spark of grace or the souls of men in us if we did not Voast for him to have such a sum of money which he named, seemeth as if he would make us believe that souls and grace was purchased of the Clargy by money much Like y<sup>t</sup> of parsons giving money to geet their Relations out of purgatory and then when he is charged with saying so in a few minits boldly to denyoy it and say he never said so is nothing short of plain Lying and

2ly for mr Emerson to write and say as he did in his







Letter of April 22, 1746 viz and would observe to you that the main thing at present in Controvacy between us by Letters you still neglect to Resolve me in—these words I think in m<sup>r</sup> Emersons Letter must be false and Carrey in them the Natur of a Ly, for in his first Letter to me with the Violation of matth 18 15-16 and in my three first Letters to him: by a number of Instances I Endeavored to show him that I had in sum good measure observed the Rule in Matth aforesaid with him and mr Emerson and I never had Changed a word to gether a bout Cap<sup>tn</sup> Goulds as I Remember so that to meet at Cap<sup>tn</sup> Goulds Could not be a main thing no nor so much as worthy of the name of a thing in Comparison with Matth afore said

Elisha Towne Testifieth and faith that he heard the Rev m<sup>r</sup> Emerson at a Town Meeting say that all you that will not Voat for me to have such a sum of Money (which he Named) had not a spark of grace nor the souls of men in you  
Elisha Towne

Joseph Herrick & David Commings testifieth and faith that on a Town meeting Day in Topsfield they heard the Revernd M<sup>r</sup> John Emerson say that they that did not Voat for him to have such a sum of money as he named had not a spark of grace nor the souls of men in them and we heard Benjamin Towne in discose with Mr Emerson about his saying such words in a few minits after he said it, and m<sup>r</sup> Emerson Declared he never said so

Joseph Herrick  
David Comings

Nathaniel Porter Jun<sup>r</sup> testifieth and faith that being in Company with M<sup>r</sup> Emerson and Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne, he heard Said Towne Charge mr Emerson with saying that all parsons were Born Divels, and mr Emerson made answer if Children of Rath then Children of the Divel.

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Jun<sup>r</sup>

Joseph Herrick being in Company with M<sup>r</sup> Emerson & Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Jun<sup>r</sup> & Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne at the same time testifieth to all above written  
Joseph Herrick





December the 2. 1747 Memorandum to meet Mr Emerson at his house this day fortnight at two o'clock after noon

Joseph Perkins of Topsfield Testifieth and Saith that he heard Mr John Emerson in his Prayers Several Sabbath days Say that the Devil Stirred up Sum of the Old Ministers to appose this Blessed work.

Joseph Perkins

Jonathan Wildes of Topsfield Testifieth and Saith that he heard Mr Emerson of Topsfield on a sabbath day say that all parsons were Born Divels

Jonathan Wildes

Samuel Curtis of Topsfield Testifieth that he heard Mr John Emerson on a Sabbath Day say that all parsons were born Divels: Benja Towne testifieth to the same

his

Samuel T Curtis  
mark

Benja Towne

Samuel Curtis and hannah his wife Testifieth and faith that they heard Mr Emerson say on a sabbath day that there was not in the Bible a book nor a Chapter nor a Verse but what treeted on Christ: Benja Towne testifieth to the same Samuel Curtis Junr Testifieth that he heard Mr Emerson say the same

his

Samuel T Curtis  
mark

her

hannah O Curtis  
mark

Benja Towne

Samuel Curtis Juner

The Dipiscion of Samuel Curtis & Elisha Towne both of Topsfield Testifieth that they heard the Rev Mr John Emerson in his prayers on a Sabbath day Declare there was three parson then to be prayed for and if they died they would all go to hell

Elisha Towne

his

Samuel T Curtis  
mark





Samuel Curtis testifieth and sayeth that he heard the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Emerson several times on Sabbath days Declare when parsons scoured and made a great noise that they were savingly Brought home to Christ

Samuel T Curtis his mark

And M<sup>r</sup> Emerson on a sabbth day declared in prayer that all parsons that did not Come in before this prayer was done would be damned

his

Samuel T Curtis  
mark

Elisha Towne

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne & Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter J<sup>r</sup> testifieth that they heard M<sup>o</sup> Emerson say on a sabbath Day in sermon that Religion never gained any thing by Disputes but allways Lost.

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter J<sup>r</sup>

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Samuel Curtis testifieth to all above written

his

Samuel T Curtis  
mark

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Elijah Porter Testifieth and Saith that Joseph How John Dwinel and Joseph Herrick J<sup>r</sup> Desired Prayers for their being Sick and according to the Best of his Remembrance when the Rev: M<sup>r</sup> Emerson made a prayer for em, he Declared they were all guilty of that Damnable Sin of Drunkenness and that if they then Dyed they would all Sink Down to hell

Elijah Porter

Rev. Sir. Whereas I Delivered you a paper on the second day of December 1747, and said in said paper, lly my Letters that I have sent to you will shew you the other reasons of my uneasiness as plain and as fully as if I should now draft them and you notwithstanding still requesting that I would give you sum hints what these reasons are, Shall proceed to say in the first place my first Letter informs you and so do all the rest of my Letters that I thought you had Violated that scriptur in Matth





18. 15. 16 in Signing your self Ingrid and agreved when you never had tould me what it was for, and your writing after such manner to me in your Letters 2ly your saying you ware but a fool to your Negro in prayer

3ly your saying that all parsons ware Born Divels, and then when I charged it on you your Justifying and saying if Children of Rath then Children of the divel

4ly your discese with me alone

5ly your Charging on maney of us that we had not a spark of grace nor the souls of men in us if we did not Voat for you to have such a sum of money which you named, with your denioying your saying so

6ly your refusing to discese with sum of us Except you had sum of your party there, and so your deviding the town in to parties

7ly your promising to make the matters of my uneasiness Easie and your neglecting or refusing to do it

8ly your prayer (as you Caed it) for John dwinel Joseph how & Joseph herrick—it being much Like that you made for m<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clark

fir these are the articals in the first Letter as you may more at large see by said paper and by sum other hints in said paper: the Letter is dated february the 24, 1745, but for brevity I Come to say, in my Letter of June y<sup>e</sup> 16, 1746, your writting to me that which was not true as you may more at Large see by said paper, and in my Letter of January the Twenty second day 1746 where I say to you, fir you know what your Conduct hath been and if it was good why have you dwindled it away, and if bad why dont you make satisfaction &c. fir these words may breaffly Comprehend Everything in your Conduct that hath not been agreeable to the word of god in Doctring disaploying or manners and also your saying the divel had stirred up sum of the old ministers to appose this blest work 3ly and your saying that some ware struck by the divel or a bad spirit: and that others fained it—and your saying at other times that they Could No more helpe Crying out then Ever aney woman Could in Child birth, and your wishing that there never was aney more salt nor Rum to Come in to the Contry fir by these with the formar articals and sum other hints in my Letters





to you you may see fully the Reasons of my uneasiness as plain as if I should now Draft Everything, and I Consider to multiply artical upon artical will be Like adding fuel to fire and I think here is Enough for a Confrance with what you had before Topsfield January the 20: 1747 I Remain  
Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

When M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Baker was taken in to the Church M<sup>r</sup> Emerson Declared that M<sup>r</sup> Baker was forrey that he had aney hand in fhuting the meeting house Dors when M<sup>r</sup> Whitfield was there M<sup>r</sup> Baker says that he never said so

M<sup>r</sup> Emerson said Religion never gained aney thing by Diputs but always Lost

M<sup>r</sup> Emerson said Can such a minister as I be mistaken.  
O no no

M<sup>r</sup> Town Whereas M<sup>r</sup> Richard Town informs me y<sup>t</sup> you sent by Him for a Copy of sum things read at m<sup>r</sup> Bixbys, when we met there last March: I take y<sup>e</sup> most Convenient opportunity to write and send it But woud observe to you y<sup>t</sup> if you desired it before, why did you not make proper applications to me, and took it months ago. But after so long Delay, how strange is it y<sup>t</sup> you should send Just at y<sup>t</sup> instant, when y<sup>e</sup> Company in arms were so impatient for prayers, y<sup>t</sup> they might be dismissed: Coud you have thot of a more unfutable improper Time?

And m<sup>r</sup> Town, why Such a Noife and Difficulty about y<sup>t</sup> which you might so very easily obtain. for my part, I wish you had had it long ago, and as I tell you, I take y<sup>e</sup> first most convenient opportunity to write and send it, since m<sup>r</sup> Richard Town has been to my House for it.

I suppose you Desire not a Copy of y<sup>e</sup> whole (Tho' all if you please) answer to your articles which would be very large. But only of some few Lines w<sup>th</sup> which I Concluded my Answer to your Articles: and which are as follows viz

### The Copy

Upon y<sup>e</sup> whole, I would say farther. I will now and always by y<sup>e</sup> Help of divine grace blefs God for all y<sup>e</sup>





blesed gracious influence of his most Holy spirit in ye late Times.

But woud heartily lament and utterly Condemn all y<sup>t</sup> rash Judging and hard Censure there has been among us, and wherein Lieu<sup>t</sup> Town or any others of my Hearers, or y<sup>t</sup> are not my Hearers have been unduely or unjustly Censured I utterly retract it. And tho I must firmly belive y<sup>t</sup> Convictions from y<sup>t</sup> Holy Spirit of God may be so powerfull as to Cause persons to Cry out, yet I also beleive too much stress has been laid upon out cries, and wherein there has been too much, I desire to retract this also: And yet would avoid y<sup>e</sup> other Extreme, and not think y<sup>e</sup> Tears & y<sup>e</sup> show of affection to be only Hypocriticall But y<sup>t</sup> they may and often are indications of what is real and unfeigned in y<sup>e</sup> Heart. a True Copy, y<sup>t</sup> is to say of y<sup>e</sup> Concluding part &c

John Emerson

Mr Town, I would not have you think y<sup>t</sup> when I speak of rash Judging and hard censures in y<sup>e</sup> above Copy, y<sup>t</sup> I Confine this to those who have been friends to y<sup>e</sup> late Times. So far from thinking so, y<sup>t</sup> I believe y<sup>t</sup> rash Judging and hard Censures has been abundantly from y<sup>e</sup> opposing Side: But tis what I Condemn on Both Sides.

I am yours &c John Emerson

Topsfield June 24 1748.

For Lieu<sup>t</sup> Benjamin Town

In Topsfield

Topsfield December 12, 1749.

Whereas y<sup>t</sup> has been a Controversie Subsisting between y<sup>e</sup> minister of Topsfield, John Emerson, and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Benj<sup>m</sup> Towne, This may Certifie y<sup>t</sup> we do now agree to pass by and bury all former Differences as tho they had never been, and agree for y<sup>e</sup> future to live in Love and friendship as become professors of y<sup>e</sup> Gospel. As witness our hands.

John Emerson

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Topsfield, March 7, 1850.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 1, 1850.





NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

(Continued from Vol. XVII, Page 192.)

At the same time and place, will be offered for sale, the other three-fourths of the farm and out-lands—thus rendering it an object worthy of attention to any person in want of a good farm; it being of easy access, situated on the road leading to Ipswich, about two miles from the village of Topsfield, and five from Ipswich. The house is supplied with a well of good water; the field land and pastures by a brook, on which is a good mill, not more than half a mile distant.

Information given, by applying to

JOHN G. HOOD, Auctioneer.

Topsfield, March 7, 1856.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 7, 1856.*

FARM in Topsfield.

FOR SALE, the FARM occupied by the subscriber, in the western part of Topsfield, about one mile from the railroad depot. Said farm contains about sixty-two acres, suitably divided into Mowing, Tillage, and Wood Land, with a good Peat Meadow, and well watered, and containing about 150 thriving young apple trees. The out-buildings on the farm are a good Dwelling House, 25 by 36 feet; a Barn 36 feet square, and Stable and Wood Shed, all of which have been built within the last seventeen years and are now in thorough repair.

THOMAS CASS.

Topsfield, March 7, 1856.

*Salem Gazette, Apr. 1, 1856.*





ESSEX INSTITUTE. A meeting will take place at Topsfield, on Saturday next, June 21st. The forenoon will be devoted to excursions.—In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the members will assemble in the Academy for the reading of papers, discussions, &c., on subjects relating to the natural sciences, and for the transaction of such business as appertains thereto. All interested are respectfully invited to attend.

*Salem Gazette, June 17, 1856.*

ESSEX INSTITUTE. The meeting of the Essex Institute at Topsfield, on Saturday, June 21st, was very interesting and profitable. Rev. J. Lewis Russell presided, and in an opening address made honorable mention of Mr. Benjamin Hale Ives of Salem, Mr. Wm. Oakes of Ipswich, and Dr. Andrew Nichols of Danvers, amongst the departed founders of the Society.

Mr. George D. Phippen, of Salem, read in part a communication on the introduction of the indigenous plants of this vicinity into cultivation, prefacing the same with some very interesting and appropriate remarks on the pleasure and improvement to be derived from a study of the Natural Sciences. Mr. P. has been for many years successfully experimenting on this subject, and as the result of labors in this department, his garden contains many specimens of our native plants in a healthy growing condition.

A communication from Dr. D. F. Weinland, of Cambridge, on the egg tooth of snakes and lizards, was read by Mr. F. W. Putnam. This singular tooth is found in the intermaxillary bone of the embryo snake, and its only use is to cut the thick leathery shell of the egg. Soon after the young snake leaves the egg, the tooth drops, and no tooth afterwards is found attached to this bone. Some few years since, whilst Dr. W. was engaged in the study of the embryology of the European ring-snake, he observed the appearance of little slits in the shell about the period of hatching, and at the same time examining one in his hand, he felt a scratch on his finger. Thus the tooth was discovered. He has since discovered this tooth in those species of American snakes which he has examined.





Remarks were made during the meeting by the chairman, Mr. S. P. Fowler, and others.

The kind attention of Dr. R. A. Merriam will long be remembered by those members of the Institute who were enabled to attend.

We understand that the next meeting will take place at Manchester, on Wednesday, July 9.

*Salem Gazette, July 1, 1856.*

### TOPSFIELD.

Correspondence of the Salem Gazette.

Since the opening of the Newburyport Railroad to Boston, through Topsfield, things have had an upward tendency. The road is now doing more business than its more sanguine friends had ever predicted for it, and had the cost of the road been kept within proper bounds of economy, it would at this time have been a good dividend paying road. There are now erected and being erected more buildings than at any period since the settlement of the town.

The crops of grain never appeared better. The crops of English Hay never surpassed the present; in fact, all kinds of business are very prosperous and flourishing.

Politically, Topsfield is en masse on the side of Freedom and Fremont. It is said that there is but one Buchanan man in the whole town, and by the fall election I have no doubt he will be found in the great party of Freedom.

Last week our village was surprised by a notice that a Poem would be delivered by Charles H. Holmes, Esq., as a criticism on some of the dogmas that had been promulgated in the place. At an early hour Union Hall was filled to its utmost capacity by the elite of the town. The Poem was a masterly production, and gave universal satisfaction. And it did appear at times as though the mantle of his Illustrious Father, (Hon. John Holmes of Maine,) had fallen on the author. The Poem, I learn, will be given to the public from the press room.

Topsfield, July 4, 1856.

L.

*Salem Gazette, July 8, 1856.*





*FREMONT CLUB IN TOPSFIELD.*

A Fremont Club was formed in Topsfield, last Tuesday evening.

The officers of the Club are the following:—President, Joel Lake, Esq. ; Vice Presidents, J. W. Healy, N. Co-nant, B. Kimball, Samuel S. McKenzie, J. G. Hood ; Di-rectors, T. K. Leach, Thomas P. Mundy, Samuel Clifford, Jeremiah Balch, Humphrey Balch, Jacob Foster, Samuel Adams ; Secretary, G. L. Gleason.

The following resolutions were adopted :

*Whereas*, The Presidential Election, which is to occur in November next, will afford an opportunity to the people of the country to bring back the National Administration to the principles of purity, justice, and equal rights, which characterized the earlier history of the Republic—and inaugurate a policy which will secure to citizens in our Territories protection of person and property, the right of suffrage and free speech—which will discountenance and suppress ruffian violence, and will enforce just and equal laws.

*Resolved*, That we recognize in John C. Fremont, the noble, patriotic, enlightened, enterprising *man* for these times—on whom at the head of our National Government we may rely to secure these results.

*Resolved*, That as he has opened for us a path to the land of gold and to the Pacific, so it is the purpose of the friends of freedom and the lovers of their country, to open for him in the next Presidential Election a way to the chair of the Executive of the Nation.

*Resolved*, That while we would be willing always and everywhere to yield to the other candidates for the Presidency all the credit they deserve for the estimable traits of private character, we regard the Platform upon which one of them has embarked his political fortunes as a dangerous piratical craft, riding upon which the present Administration has become the patron and protector of murder, robbery, and disfranchisement of our fellow citizens in Kansas, and brought the nation upon the very verge of intestine war:—and we regard the expressed opinions of the other candidate as breathing a spirit so





intensely and unreasonably sectional, as to prove him incompetent to appreciate the present state of the country, and a man altogether unfit for the present crisis.

*Resolved*, That in the present struggle of Freedom with slavery, the victory of freedom is a victory for the whole country, and for the human race; and we recognize in John C. Fremont the qualities, both of mind and heart, which render him worthy to be a leader in such a contest.

*Salem Gazette, July 22, 1856.*

**DIED.** In Topsfield, Oct. 3d, John Lamson, 69 years 4 months. Capt. Lamson was one of the most valued citizens of Topsfield,—liberal, benevolent, and kind,—ever ready with heart and purse, in the support of every good work, and beloved and respected by all.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 17, 1856.*

[At the political mass meeting held in Georgetown, Oct. 16th, The Topsfield Fremont and Dayton Club marched in the procession.] On their banner was a ring enclosing thirty-one stars, 15 black and 16 white, and the mottoes :

“ Kansas shall be one of this bright constellation,”  
 “ The Union—it must and shall be preserved,” “ Free Speech, Free Men, and the Free Territory, is our motto.”  
*Reverse*—“ Fremont and Freedom—Books and the Bible.”  
 “ Buchanan and Bondage—Bludgeons and Bowie Knives ”  
 —“ Freedom National—Slavery Sectional ”—a Bible beneath the former, and a pistol beneath the latter motto.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1856.*

**DIED.** In Virden, Illinois, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, MR. HUMPHREY GOULD, aged 27. The deceased was a native of Topsfield, Mass., from which place he removed about two years ago. He was a man of very courteous and obliging disposition, and his daily walk was highly exemplary. He had never made a public profession of religion, yet has he left behind him consoling evidence that his soul had felt the power of the New Life. Mr. Gould was a devoted member of the Sabbath School and Bible Class, and was the worthy and much esteemed leader of the Virden Baptist Choir.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 12, 1856.*





**DIED.** In Topsfield, Thomas L. Lane, Esq., aged 40. It is always a loss to the public to have a member of the community removed from it, who is in the prime of manhood, and who has performed all the social and moral duties of life with fidelity and promptitude, and in a manner agreeable to all. The loss is the greater when this community is circumscribed within the limits of a small country town. Mr. Lane, though not unknown in the neighboring towns, was probably better known and more duly appreciated at home than abroad, being a somewhat retiring man. Since he has been a resident with us, he has performed all the relative duties of husband, son, brother and a friend, in a manner that has made warm friends of all and will leave impressions upon all which will not soon be effaced. For three years Mr. Lane has labored under a disease which has deprived him of the power of uttering a loud word, the throat and organs of speech being the seat of the disease. Yet for the most part of the time he has been able to attend to his business, as a shoe dealer.—*Topsfield, Jan. 5.*

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1857.*

### THE TOWN OF TOPSFIELD.

This town, which first drew the breath of life in 1650, having been settled eleven years previous by farmers and others, from Salem and Ipswich, is one of the prettiest in the county of Essex. Its inhabitants are chiefly farmers, though the business of manufacturing shoes is carried on to a considerable extent—the chief manufacturers in the place being Mr. Charles Herrick, who owns a large three-story building devoted to this purpose. It contains its groceries, too, where the good people within a wide circuit procure the necessaries of life, and pass many pleasant evening hours in discussions of the various themes that rise up in daily review.

Before the introduction of railroads, the town, like most of the others in the county, supported a tavern, which was situated upon a hill over which runs the Newburyport Turnpike—a way that has long since passed under the control of the county, and ceased to exact toll of those who travelled it. All the recollections which clus-





ter about these old taverns will soon be the exclusive property of "the oldest inhabitant," and later generations must let their imagination supply all deficiencies of stage-drivers' yarns, ghosts, and hobgoblins.

Topsfield rejoices in two churches, both in a flourishing state, and four public schools. It has also an Academy for instruction in the various branches of education; "to furnish the youth of both sexes with the means of securing a thorough, practical education for the business of life; to fit young men for admission to college; to afford young ladies the means of obtaining a liberal education; and to inculcate in the minds of the young those great principles of morality and religion which form the basis of all that is lovely in the human character, and desirable in our free institutions." At any rate, so says the catalogue of the Academy for 1857. The whole number of students is 178—the average attendance per term being 79. The number of young gentlemen engaged in the classical department is 40; young ladies, 35. In the English department, gentlemen 58, ladies 45. The Academy, which is a plain wooden building of a decidedly intellectual bearing, is situated upon a hill, and is surrounded by a beautiful green lawn, affording ample room for rational sports of whatever nature.

Building, in this country town, progresses slowly but surely—the number of handsome houses, however, having increased more rapidly within the past two or three years. The old Cleaveland estate would perhaps attract the stranger's attention more readily than any other—the house, or a part of it, being one of the oldest in the place, though much improved over its original look by extensive outlays which have from time to time been made. Mr. Chas. Herrick has erected perhaps the most costly residence in town, a short distance from the railroad station. Mr. Jacob Foster and Mrs. Taylor,—widow of the late Rev. Mr. Taylor of Manchester,—have also erected very pretty and substantial houses, in close proximity, upon the same road. Mr. John G. Hood, also, has recently erected a new house upon the hill which leads to the Lake nurseries. Mr. Samuel Adams, opposite the post-office, and Mr. Dudley Perkins, upon the outskirts of the village,





have also done their share towards elevating the architectural character of the houses, and there are perhaps others who may have done the same.

Topsfield is within an hour's ride of Boston, and we wonder that some of the wealthy persons of the metropolis do not purchase and improve some of the pleasant lands which abound in the town. The village nestles within a complete surrounding of fertile hills, ever green and luxuriant, over which blows the wholesome western breeze, as pure as if wafted straight from heaven. Ipswich river passes through the town, too, and adds its share to the picturesque beauty of the place, especially after the heavy rains. To one who desires to witness the little town of Topsfield in full regalia of nature, we would commend a walk, some pleasant morning, to the old Toll House upon the Turnpike; though "great Hill" may doubtless furnish a better view *outside* the town limits.

*Salem Gazette, May 24, 1857.*

**TOPSFIELD.** The fourth of July will be celebrated in Topsfield by the ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Society, who will hold a Social Gathering at Union Hall, at 9 o'clock on the morning of that day. Distinguished speakers will be present from Boston, Salem, Lynn, Chelsea, Danvers, and other places. Martial music by several performers. A choir of singers and a quadrille club will be in attendance. The proceeds to be appropriated to financial and benevolent objects. Cars leave Topsfield for Boxford, Georgetown, Haverhill and Newburyport, at 4 o'clock, and for Danvers, Salem, and Boston, at 5.50 P. M.

*Salem Gazette, June 30, 1857.*

**TOPSFIELD.**—The Assessors of Topsfield have completed their census of Legal Voters and Inhabitants, and arrive at the following results:—

No. of Legal Voters.	293
" " Inhabitants.	1202
" " Children between 5 and 15,	265
" " Enrolled Militia,	200
Population returned in 1850,	1142
" " " 1855,	1162





The fourth of July was duly commemorated, as we had previously announced, by the Ladies of the Methodist Society. This festival, says the Register, was a very successful and gratifying affair. The Stars and Stripes were displayed from the bell-tower of the church, and the Vestry, or "Union Hall," in the basement story, was very tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, and festooned with American ensigns. Here had been erected a series of temporary tables, which were beautifully spread with delectable things, to a free participation of which the moderate price of admission introduced the guests. Felicitous addresses were made by Rev. Father Taylor of Boston, Rev. Messrs. Herrick of Salem and Sutherland of Danvers; by Mr. Ellis, the Preceptor of Topsfield Academy, and Benj. P. Adams, Esq., of T. The exercises were interspersed with music, and the large company present, numbering some five hundred, of all ages and both sexes, enjoyed themselves to their utmost satisfaction, and closed the services, at a late hour in the afternoon, feeling that the day had been most appropriately and happily celebrated in this ancient and pleasant town.

The students of the Topsfield Academy—an institution which is now in a most flourishing condition—held a Pic Nic near Hood's Pond, in Boxford, where it is unnecessary to say that the spirited young men of this school, and their friends present, enjoyed a grand good time.

*Salem Gazette, July 7, 1857.*

TOPSFIELD—Frederick Boyden, formerly of Topsfield, died at Goshen, Orange county, N. Y., Friday evening. Mr. Boyden was son of the late Simeon Boyden, of Boston, and for a number of years one of the proprietors of the Astor House, New York, and subsequently proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, Richmond, Va. Mr. Boyden purchased the extensive farm in Topsfield, Mass., known as the "Crowninshield farm," but finding our severe winters and cold east winds did not agree with him, he disposed of his farm some fifteen months since, and removed to New York city; but perceiving his health still





failing, he removed to Goshen, to pass a few months, but there death closed his earthly career.

*Salem Gazette, July 28, 1857.*

TOPSFIELD—A valued correspondent from this good old town says: "I have read with interest your 'County Gleanings,' and have wished you might have a correspondent in every town, to furnish you with interesting incidents which are constantly occurring. I see by your last paper that the County Commissioners have placed us with Beverly and Wenham, in one Legislative district, which I think is very satisfactory to the people of Topsfield. Our former connection with these towns in the Congressional district was very agreeable. When whig principles were thought something of, Beverly, Wenham, and Topsfield, were not regarded as insignificant towns, and reminiscences of the past are pleasant.

We are now in the midst of the berry season, and as ours is a *berry town* we have many distinguished visitors from abroad. Our farmers are now enjoying a fine season to harvest their hay, and the crop is abundant. Some considerable complaint is made on account of the potato rot, which is confined to the chenangoes and early varieties. I apprehend the late planted will not suffer. The apple crop will be a failure. Corn is looking as well as usual at this season of the year, and if the frost holds off there will be more than a usual crop. Smaller grains are harvested and are good.

Two lads, sons of Mr. Eleazer Lake, were picking berries a few days since, when the youngest was attacked by a large "water snake", and would probably have been severely dealt with, had not his brother come to his rescue. They succeeded in killing it, when it was found to measure three feet and four inches in length, and had in its stomach twenty-seven young ones, measuring eight inches each. When placed in a row, so as to touch each other, they measured twenty-one feet and four inches—a good family of snakes and smart boys. Mr. Henry Long beats all in the hen line. He gave his old hen (all the fowl he keeps) twelve eggs, and she brought out fourteen chicks, and left two bad eggs; and what is strange there





were six cocks and six pullets, and they are all doing well.

I have just seen Mrs. Goodrich, the wife of the notorious Joshua, who is in the Newburyport jail for a criminal assault on his daughter a short time since, and she informs me that her daughter had run away with a young man to get married. She says her daughter and this young man made the complaint against the girl's father, to put him in a situation to hinder his interfering to prevent their marriage. How much truth there is in this story, I am unable to say. At any rate, the young man who is complainant, and the girl who is the witness, are both among the missing.

*Salem Gazette, Aug, 28, 1857.*

TOPSFIELD. B. Poole, Esq., President of the Newburyport Railroad, so the Herald says, has one of the finest and most extensive gardens in the country, comprising four acres, handsomely laid out, walled and hedged, and planted with all the approved varieties of apples, pears, peaches, and cherries, together with the minor fruits and vegetables. The arrangements in and around the handsome mansion and other buildings are all in keeping.

If he manages the affairs of the Newburyport Railroad, of which he is President, with the same judgment, skill, and precision which he bestows on his garden, we have no fear but that its present success will continue.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 25, 1857.*

TOPSFIELD—A correspondent of the Bath (Maine) Tribune, in a late letter, thus notices this pleasant town:

"This is one of the most cosey villages of Essex County, which is noted for its many pretty little towns. It is nestled amid verdant hills and has a bright and sunny aspect. It is just the place one would select who desired a quiet, healthful place of residence, and many have availed themselves of its advantages in that respect. Among them are Mr. Moses Wildes, long known as a proprietor of the Elm St. House, and now a monied man of State Street, Boston, Mr. John Cleaveland, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who is an operator in Wall St., Mr. C. Her-





rick, an extensive shoe manufacturer in this place. The two last having elegant mansions. Benjamin Poole, Esq., has a delightful country residence, with field, orchard, ornamental trees and shrubbery surrounding the house. Mr. P. is a native of Maine, practised law very successfully in Lowell, Mass., was a member of the Legislature from that city, and is now President of the Newburyport R. R., he acting also as Superintendent and Attorney—all of which offices he fills to the great satisfaction of all concerned.

Topsfield has a slow but steady growth, and among the new buildings, J. G. Hood, Esq., who is the principal active Justice of the town, has a fine residence, on an elevated and pleasant locality, the best I think in this place. Mr. B. P. Adams has the Post-Office.

There is a very good Academy in the village and two churches. There is a very good moral society and hospitality among the people.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 3, 1857.*

TOPSFIELD—A correspondent of the Andover Advertiser says that the principal business of this village is butchering for Salem and Danvers markets. Almost everybody is a butcher, and almost every wagon is a butcher cart. Mr. Thos. P. Munday, one of our *largest* citizens, supplies the markets with about 8000 sheep and lambs, 2000 calves, and 400 cattle annually, besides pigs, poultry, &c.

*Salem Gazette, Mar. 5, 1858.*

TOPSFIELD The receipts and expenditures of the town of Topsfield for the year ending Feb. 26, 1858, have been printed at the Salem Gazette office. The expenditures were as follows:—Schools, \$796 69; Roads and Bridges, \$2,308 10; Snow Paths, \$394 97; Expenses in the Peabody Case, \$342 87; Overseer's Department, \$652 00; Incidentals, \$2,114 72. Total, \$6,608 35; Balance in the Treasury, \$1510 02. Amount of Town Debt is \$7,021 00.

*Salem Gazette, May 7, 1858.*

TOPSFIELD. The town of Topsfield has met with a very serious loss, in the decease of John G. Hood, Esq.,





who died on Sunday night last, at the age of fifty-one years. Mr. Hood had long been one of the most respected magistrates and most valued citizens of the town, which was his birthplace, and for the honor and welfare of which he had never spared his time or labor. He had never followed any other employment as a profession than that of a farmer; but he had for many years given much of his time to the settlement of estates, and other probate and legal business, for which his talents fitted him, and of which his character for exactness and probity naturally brought a great deal to him for performance. As a citizen, he was without reproach, and as a friend and neighbor, one of the kindest and best of men.

*Salem Gazette, June 8, 1858.*

The Supreme Court have recently sent down from Suffolk County their decision on the long contested case between Wm. Peabody and the Town of Topsfield. The plttf. originally recovered a verdict against the town of \$1235, for injuries received by reason of alleged defects in the highway. A motion was made to set aside the verdict, but was overruled and judgment was ordered on the verdict, and execution was duly issued, but while in the progress of enforcement, a petition for a new trial was filed by the town upon the ground of newly discovered evidence, and a *supercedeas* issued to the officer holding the execution, ordering a stay of the process until after a hearing of the petition. A hearing was had at the recent term of the S. J. Court, and the Chief Justice, who presided, took the matter under advisement. It seems from the decision he has recently communicated to the Clerk of Courts, that the petition for new trial is dismissed. The original judgment therefore stands affirmed.

*Salem Gazette, July 6, 1858.*

For the Salem Gazette.

### THE TREADWELL FARM.

*Mr. Editor.*—The Essex Agricultural Society have not yet decided upon the measures they should pursue in relation to the Treadwell Farm. Is there no person who





could inform the public respecting Dr. Treadwell's views in regard to this matter? He undoubtedly had some general plan of operation in his mind when he made the bequest. It is a pity that he did not explain in detail the course he wished the Society to pursue in their management of the farm. But as he has not done this, it remains for the Society to adopt some plan that would seem the most expedient to carry out the will of the testator.

That he intended the farm should be used for experimental purposes, is made manifest by the conditions of the bequest, which provides that the farm shall be forfeited for the benefit of the Mass. Gen. Hospital, if it should ever be used for anything else except an experimental farm. The Society has no right to lease it, or to give it away, nor to place it beyond the control of the Society, by giving it up to the management of a single individual.

Among the plans which have been proposed for the management of the farm, the following are the most important:

1. It is proposed to make the farm the centre of all the operations of the Society; the place for holding their Annual Exhibitions, and for all meetings for the transaction of the Society's business; the place for the Clerk's office, the library, cabinet and documents, and the depot for the live stock and other property of the Society, not in funds. For these purposes certain buildings should be erected on the farm, and the whole should be placed under the management of a superintendent, whose qualifications are not particularized.

2. A second proposition is to give some practical farmer the rent and profits of the farm for an indefinite period, on the condition that he will perform certain experiments, proposed occasionally by the Trustees; or to give the rent and profits of the farm to any practical farmer who will agree to instruct a certain number of boys in the practical business of farming, thus making it a sort of private agricultural school.

3. Another proposal was made by Mr. Flagg, in his Essay on Experimental Farming, published in the last





number of the Society's Transactions. In this essay it is proposed to place a man of liberal education upon the farm as Superintendent, who should make it a sort of depot of general, practical and scientific information. It should be his duty, besides overseeing the practical operations of the farm, to keep a journal of these operations, also meteorological and entomological journals, to which the members of the Society and others might refer for any information which they might afford; the Superintendent holding a correspondence with other societies and experimenters, and furnishing periodical reports to the Trustees. The labor of the farm would be performed by hired men under his supervision. This plan might easily be combined with the one under the first head.

Lastly it has been proposed to give the farm up entirely to the management of some practical farmer, who should occupy it and enjoy its profits, free of rent, for a period of 10, 15, or 20 years, on the condition of keeping a daily journal of all his processes and their results. The Society would exercise no control over its management except to see that the occupant complied with the conditions, and to use the matter of his journal for the benefit of the public.

Drill.

*Salem, July 14, 1858.*

*Salem Gazette, July 20, 1858.*

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.—The Semi-Annual Examination of this successful Institution was on Wednesday, July 15th. The writer had the pleasure of being present in the afternoon, and was highly interested. The exercises commenced with singing by the members of the school, which convinced all that there was no lack of musical talent. Declamations were then given by J. H. Byne, of Galveston, Texas; M. V. B. Perley, of Ipswich; and A. D. Pearson, of Topsfield, all of whom did credit to themselves and the school.

The Orations, with the subjects, were as follows:—The Sons of Liberty, George P. Flint, North Reading; Struggles, Jefferson K. Cole, Boxford; Death, Clarence Fowler, Danvers; Mental Culture, Daniel J. Ames, Ver-shire, Vt.; Influence of Great Men on their Age, Henry





G. Rollins, Georgetown. The orations were creditable to their writers and the school. The last one, by H. G. Rollins, would compare favorably with the best productions of college graduates, and do honor to many men of high pretensions. Next came the reading of the paper published by the school. The Editor, H. G. Rollins, introduced Miss Abbie Cole of Topsfield and Miss Mary Cushing of Williamstown, as the *readers*, who interested those present, for the space of half an hour, with rich gems of thought and wit, causing many a hearty laugh.

We next listened to the reading of essays by the following ladies of the graduating class:—Cornelia M. Thurston of Vershire, Vt., Margaret A. Hoyt, Georgetown, Charlotte A. Perkins, and Ellen F. Kimball of Topsfield. The essays were finely written and very pleasing. The one by Miss Kimball, on the Marriage of the Hemispheres, was particularly good, being written in an easy, natural style, and well read.

At the close of the exercises, Diplomas were presented to those graduating, with appropriate remarks by the worthy and able Principal, O. D. Allis, A. M.

Topsfield Academy has a fine location, and we were happy to find the school in such a flourishing condition.

Although we were told by the Principal that the past term had not been so fully attended as previous terms, yet the school was in a healthy and promising state, and as long as its present Board of Teachers remain, we have high hopes of its success.

AN OLD FRIEND OF EDUCATION.

*Salem Gazette, July 23, 1858.*

TOPSFIELD. In Topsfield, the noble old pine, which has been a conspicuous object for many years, near the entrance of the village, on land of Mr. Orne, was struck by lightning, on Thursday, and split in two.

*Salem Gazette, July 27, 1858.*

For the Salem Gazette.

**TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.**

Permit us to call the attention of the readers of the Salem Gazette and Essex County Mercury to this worthy





Institution. The report has by some means gone abroad that immorality is permitted to exist here to a great extent without molestation. Now, while it is true, that here, as in every other large school, improprieties have sometimes occurred, yet, as in all well conducted schools, they have been promptly and thoroughly banished as soon as discovered. And we are confident that a more upright and moral school than this has been for some time past, and now is, cannot be found.

Mr. Allis, the Principal, is eminently successful as a teacher and disciplinarian. He takes the deepest interest in the moral and religious training of his students, and employs no teachers but those of the first order, whose whole time and energies are devoted to their classes and the school, and those who are experimentally acquainted with the Christian religion.

The location of the Academy is one of the finest in the country. It is situated on the Newburyport Railroad, twenty-five miles from Boston, nine miles from Salem, and twelve miles from Newburyport. It occupies a beautiful eminence, in a central part of the village of Topsfield, commanding a fine view of the surrounding scenery. The town is free from those allurements to vice, drinking and gaming saloons, &c., which are found in most of our towns and villages. There are two churches, of the Methodist and Congregational denominations, at one or the other of which all the students who board in town are required to attend regularly.

While the teachers strive to impart good moral and religious lessons, they are careful to avoid sectarianism in all its forms, so that this is a school for all denominations. In short, we believe that in small expense, in thorough mental discipline, and in freedom from immoral influences, this school possesses advantages over most of our New England schools, and we most heartily recommend it to public favor and patronage.

CIVIS.

Topsfield, July 21, 1858.

*Salem Gazette, July 30, 1858.*

TOPSFIELD.—*Mr. Editor.*—I see you are picking up scraps for almost every part of the County, but do not say anything about Topsfield.





We will just inform you that we have some lions left, if we have parted with some to supply your city and others.

Although one of our lions, in the shape of a farm, met with a little accident, by some of the stock falling through the floor, which certainly would not have happened if the oxen had not been heavier than any others that had been there before; for I understand the brick was entirely new. The next in course, as you proceed north, is the Treadwell Farm, if not now a lion, is destined ere long to become one; and, we think, has already made a very good beginning, having garnered three hundred bushels of shelled corn the first year of its improved culture, to say nothing of other products. Advance one step further north, and you find yourself in the best pomological garden in the county of Essex, where they sell apples at 7 dollars a barrel the present season. Advance some 30 minutes' walk further, and you come to a young pear tree, which produced the income of 12 dollars at six dollars per bushel, the present year.

If Topsfield is not quite a *city*, it has been predicted that it will become one day a *seaport*; and we had last week some very fine speeches from Gen. Oliver, who, if not a mayor then, is now; and has left his mantle with us, which we hope will one day spread over the city of Topsfield, or some other in the county.

A little incident happened to the General, while visiting the schools. While spending an hour or so in the South School, the General, by his easy, familiar and child-like manner, soon attracted the attention of the whole school. He came to one little bright-eyed and intellectual boy, eight or ten years old, and who had commenced attending school that day, a perfect stranger to the teacher and the Committee present. The General, among other questions, asked the little boy what his name was. The boy very innocently answered,—“*Henry K. Oliver Batchelder!*” The General was not aware he had got so near home.

Last week we were informed that there was no sleighing between Topsfield and Salem; but that from Topsfield to the Canada line the sleighing was perfect.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 21, 1858.*





**TOPSFIELD.**—The bill of mortality in this town for the last year presents a remarkable aspect. Only twenty-two persons have died, the oldest of whom was 85. Four were quite young children, and the remainder were adults, the whole number giving the extraordinary average of more than 50 years. There are few towns which can show a better general bill than Topsfield.—*Reg.*

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 7, 1859.*

**TOPSFIELD.**—A Bald Eagle was shot on Thursday last by Mr. Eleazer Lake. The wings when extended measured eight feet. Beat this who can.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 18, 1859.*

**TOPSFIELD.** Eleazer Lake and brother *shot*, on Saturday last, on the Ipswich river, in Topsfield, seventy muskrats, in fifty-five shots; a great day's work at gunning.

*L.*

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 28, 1859.*

### Valuable Farm for Sale in Topsfield.

To be sold at Private Sale all together or in lots to suit purchasers, the valuable Farm formerly known as the **DAVID LAKE FARM**, containing about one hundred acres of as good land as can be found in Essex County, upon which is a good dwelling-house, two stories high, well supplied with water: two large Barns, one nearly new. Also, a new building, suitable for a Shoe Manufactory, or can be easily made into a dwelling-house.

The Farm is among the most desirable in Topsfield—Seventy-five acres of it lie in a body near the house, and is suitably divided by good stone wall; bounded on the southerly side by the beautiful stream of water, the Ipswich River, which runs on the south side for a considerable distance. This farm is situated in a pleasant and beautiful location. A part of it is upon high land, and commands an extensive prospect of the adjacent country, and is capable of being cut up into superior house lots; this part is bounded by the road on the west, directly opposite the property of Asahel Huntington and George Wheatland, Esqs., of Salem, on the east by land owned by Hon. John Cleaveland, of New York.





Also, four acres of Woodland, in Willis' Woods, in Boxford. Six acres of excellent Salt Marsh in one lot, also another of two acres, both situated on the Hundreds in Ipswich.

The above named farm is well worthy the attention of those who wish to purchase a good estate. It is in one of the best neighborhoods—in a locality combining great beauty, health and social benefits of the highest order. It is a few minutes walk from the Topsfield depot; and the village in which are two flourishing churches, good common schools, and an academy for the education of both sexes, which is acknowledged unsurpassed by any similar institution in Essex county.

Topsfield is situated upon the Newburyport Railroad; is one hour's ride from Boston, and 35 minutes from Newburyport. For further particulars apply to ANDREW GOULD, in Topsfield.

THOMAS J. CLARK.

*Amesbury, April 12, 1859.*

*Salem Gazette, April 12, 1859.*

TOPSFIELD.—The students of Topsfield Academy will give an exhibition at Union Hall, on Thursday evening, May 5th. The exhibition will consist of original orations, colloquies, tableaux, recitations, &c. The music will be an attractive feature of the exhibition, being both vocal and instrumental.

The Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Topsfield has a vein of excellent good sense running through it. The Committee say:

In our connection with the schools this year, we have observed less disposition among the scholars to attend to fancy branches of studies, to the neglect of the more fundamental and essential branches, such as Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, and Grammar; and we think these branches are much more important, in the order which we have named them. That is, Reading is of the first importance, and Spelling next.

As to the higher branches, Physiology and most of the ologies, which are directed by the Legislature to be taught in our common schools, we think they should be confined





to the higher schools. It ought not to be required of teachers to be learned in these branches; they belong more particularly to professors in colleges and other high institutions of learning. Females, especially, who are the best teachers for youth, would not spend the time for so great a preparation, in view of the short term which they design for teaching. The smattering of very imperfect knowledge which the pupil would get from such imperfect teaching, could not be very useful or valuable.

The common civilities, the little amenities of life, should be more attended to by parents and teachers.

*Salem Gazette, May 3, 1859.*

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.—The Semi-annual Examination of this Institution took place on Wednesday, July 13. It was pleasurable and highly instructive to listen to the Rhetorical Exercises in the afternoon, which consisted of Essays, Recitations, Declamations and Orations. The Essays, by both ladies and gentlemen, displayed much sound practical thought and ready wit, both of which were not wanting in the Poem entitled "Gumption," written by Miss Lucie Weston. The Recitations were a very interesting feature of the exercise, delivered by A. M. Merriam, J. W. Perkins, G. Welch and J. B. Putnam, who, in his always remarkably good manner of speaking, acted the "Lay of the Madman" admirably, thrilling the breast of every hearer. The speakers of Declamations showed taste in selection, determination to improve, and a clear apprehension of the author's thoughts. Next were the Orations; one, entitled "Education, the Parent of Happiness and Prosperity," was neatly written by M. V. B. Perley; the other, entitled "Jephtha's Daughter," was so vividly described and delivered with such pathos, by G. F. Flint, that we could, in imagination, behold the beautiful maiden kneeling before her valiant father to receive her death-blow. All who participated in the exercise (so many that this brief sketch forbids the insertion of all the names) gained credit for themselves and for the school, and showed that they possessed minds, capable, with proper cultivation, of wielding a mighty force for the good of mankind.





Topsfield Academy is in a flourishing condition, the number of its students increasing, and the buildings having lately undergone repairs. A. J. Dutton, A. B., Principal, is a worthy citizen and efficient teacher; and we, knowing personally his merits, most cheerfully recommend him to the public.

Amicus Educationi.

*Salem Gazette, July 19, 1859.*

DIED. In Somerville, July 13, of disease of the heart, Lydia Porter, wife of James W. Stearns, Esq., formerly of Salem, and daughter of the late Billy Emerson, Esq., of Topsfield, 66 yrs. 8 mos. 23 days.

Funeral Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Relatives and friends are invited to attend without further notice.

*Salem Gazette, July 26, 1859.*

TOPSFIELD. The semi-annual examination of Topsfield Academy was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

The condition of this school has been uniformly satisfactory. The instruction has been thorough and accurate, and the discipline of the most pleasant and salutary nature.

The principal, with his highly accomplished aids, have succeeded, in a good degree, in inspiring their pupils with that feeling of self-respect which tends so greatly to promote propriety of deportment and manliness of bearing. The most kindly feeling exists between the teachers and pupils, each having the confidence in the other which is so essential to and promotive of right action. On the last day of examination the hall was crowded with spectators, all the exercises were such as to afford indubitable evidence of great industry and fidelity on the part of teachers and pupils. The exercises of the afternoon were particularly interesting, consisting of Compositions, Recitations and Orations. The compositions were put up in paper-like form, and read by two ladies and two gents. There was much talent exhibited in preparing the articles furnished. There are many excellent writers in this school, as was seen by the Orations which followed. They





were delivered by Geo. F. Flint, John W. Perkins and Geo. T. Welch. Mr. Welch is a superior speaker as well as an excellent writer. The recitations were highly creditable, having a variety of the pathetic, dictactive, and humorous.

We rejoice to hear of the improvement about to be made from the proceeds of their recent Levee, and we have full confidence the pupils will strive diligently to have their deportment and improvement such as will indicate a proper appreciation of their extra privileges.

It is a matter of sincere regret on the part of all concerned, that the school is about to lose the services of Mrs. Jones, the highly accomplished and efficient assistant. She has been connected with this school for several years, and her labors have been eminently and entirely satisfactory. She has enjoyed the confidence of her patrons, and she will ever be gratefully remembered by her pupils.

A SPECTATOR.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 22, 1859.*

### Topsfield Academy.

The Winter Term of this old and well known Institution will commence MONDAY, Nov. 28. Tuition and Board as heretofore. For a Catalogue or further information, address the Principal,

A. A. Dutton.

Topsfield, Mass., Nov. 22, 1859.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 22, 1859.*

Publick Notice is hereby given to the Inhabitants of said Towne that the School will be kept at the house of Mr. David Townes on Monday the 25th Day of June instant said School to begin at the usual Time.

Daniel Bixby, Pr. Order.

Topsfield, January 27, 1799

Notice is hereby given that the school will move from the School house on the South side of the River to the school house near Benjamin Hobbs's Tomorrow by order of the school Committee.

Jonas Merriam.





## HISTORICAL NOTES.

*Topsfield, Dec. 17, 1775.* After repeated attendance on Divine Worship, it being the evening of the Sabbath, without any previous complaint, sunk down in his seat and suddenly departed this life, ELIJAH PORTER, Esq.; in the 63d year of his age; a person of good endowments, natural and acquired, which rendered him a great blessing to his family and friends, by whom he was highly valued for his sensible, serious and pleasant conversation, as well as benevolent disposition. His death is greatly lamented by his relations and acquaintance; but, blessed be God, they don't mourn as those who have no hope.

*New England Chronicle (Boston),  
Jan. 11, 1776.*

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Topsfield, June 16<sup>th</sup> 1788

Recd of Daniel Bixby Guardian to Reuben Perkins the Sum of two Pounds Fourteen Shillings it being one half of the Sum agreed to give the Subscriber in Consideration of said Reuben Perkins Liveing with him twelve months in the winter Season in order to Learn a Shoe makers Trade

Recd by me

Robert Perkins Junr.

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Topsfield, June 23d, 1792

Publick Notice is hereby given to the Inhabitants of said Towne that the School will be kept at the house of Mr. David Townes on Monday the 25th Day of June instant said School to begin at the usual Time.

Daniel Bixby, Pr. Order.

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Topsfield, January 27, 1799

Notice is hereby given that the school will move from the School house on the South side of the River to the school house near Benjamin Hobbs's Tomorrow by order of the school Committee.

Jonas Merriam.





## MARRIAGES.

1911.		
Jan. 24	{	Frank G. Roberts (Topsfield), son of N. Hanson and Mary J. (Sykes) Roberts. Addie F. Adams (Topsfield), dau. of Edwin and Sarah C. (Moore) Adams.
March 13	{	Herbert Fryer (Stancham) son of Harry A. and Ellen J. (Tidd) Fryer. Ethel Irene Hoffer (Stancham), dau. of Louis A. and Dora (Meyer) Hoffer.
Sept. 25	{	Eben A. Peabody (Topsfield), son of Alden P. and Lydia A. (Wildes) Peabody. Eva G. Harris (Danvers), dau. of William E. and Mabel L. (Sanford) Harris.
Oct. 5	{	William C. Long (Topsfield), son of Ira P. and Harriet L. (Follansbee) Long. Mary C. Jackson (Topsfield), dau. of Charles V. and Mary C.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Oct. 22	{	William J. Goodwin (Danvers), son of George and Mary A. (Anderson) Goodwin. Luella Pearson (Topsfield), dau. of Loring A. and Mary A. C. (Towse) Pearson.
		FOR THE YEAR 1912.

Oct. 30	{	Clarence M. Severance (Topsfield), son of Frederick and Margaret E. (Morse) Severance. Catherine E. McNevin (Topsfield), dau. of John and Mary (Dunning) McNevin.
Nov. 5	{	Mark E. Hodges (Topsfield), son of Benjamin and Maria R. (Reynolds) Hodges. Ida E. Williams (Topsfield), dau. of Henry B. and Frances (Parson) Williams.

## BIRTHS.

1911.		
Oct. 12	—	son of Harry M. and Catherine (McNevin) Smith.
Dec. 29	—	son of J. Howard and Delia R. (Baker) Burnett.
1912.		
Jan. 23	—	dau. of Paul and Lucia (Le Caporal) La, Cassessa.
March 13		Spencer Linwood, son of Ralph E. and Ines L. (Stetson) Newell.
March 30		Alexander, son of David and Gesualda (Abbadessa) Gangi.
March 30		Elizabeth, dau. of John and Margaret (MacClellan) McQuade.
June 16		Kenneth Leslie, son of Leslie L. and Isabelle P. (Smerage) Ingalls.
July 7		Ormond C., Jr., son of Ormond C. and Elizabeth (Carnes) Taylor.
July 19	—	dau. of Pietro A. and Emmanuela (Matteo) DeGisi.
Aug. 9		Elmer B. Jr., son of Elmer B. and Anna G. (Blaney) Thomas
Aug. 10		Priscilla, dau. of Frederick M. and Mabel R. (Towne) Peabody.
Sept. 12	—	dau. of John W. and Florence M. (Derry) Fuller.
Sept. 26		Donald Bartlett, son of Harry O. and Zella E. (Bartlett) Banks.
Dec. 15		Warren Ferguson, son of Russell C. and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Smith



## MARRIAGES.

1912.		
Jan.	24.	{ Frank O. Roberts (Topsfield), son of N. Hanson and Mary J. (Sykes) Roberts. Addie F. Adams (Topsfield), dau. of Edwin and Sarah C. (Moore) Adams.
March	13.	{ Herbert Fryer (Stoneham) son of Harry A. and Ellen J. (Tidd) Fryer. Ethel Irene Hoffer (Stoneham), dau. of Louis A. and Dora (Meyer) Hoffer.
Sept.	25.	{ Eben A. Peabody (Topsfield), son of Alden P. and Lydia A. (Wildes) Peabody. Eva O. Harris (Danvers), dau. of William E. and Mabel L. (Sanford) Harris.
Oct.	5.	{ William C. Long (Topsfield), son of Ira P. and Harriet L. (Follansbee) Long. Mary G. Jackman (Topsfield), dau. of Charles V. and Mary C. (Underwood) Jackman.
Oct.	22.	{ William J. Goodwin (Danvers), son of George and Mary A. (Anderson) Goodwin. Luella Pearson Rust (Topsfield), dau. of Loring A. and Mary A. C. (Towne) Rust.
Oct.	30.	{ Clarence M. Severance (Topsfield), son of Frederick and Margaret E. (Margeson) Severance. Catherine E. Melin (Topsfield), dau. of John and Mary (Dunning) Melin.
Nov.	5.	{ Mark R. Hodges (Topsfield), son of Benjamin and Maria R. (Reynolds) Hodges. Ida E. Williams (Topsfield), dau. of Henry B. and Frances (Parton) Williams.
Dec.	8.	{ George A. Stanwood (Topsfield), son of James W. W. and Susie (Clark) Stanwood. Bertha E. Titus (Topsfield), dau. of Frank and Ada M. (Porter) Titus.

## DEATHS.

1912.		
Feb.	10.	Benjamin Johnson, son of Perley and Sarah (Perkins) Balch, aged 85 yrs., 5 mos., 1 day.
Feb.	17.	Josiah P., son of Dudley and Sarah (Perkins) Perkins, aged 79 yrs., 4 mos., 13 days.
March	2.	Martha Rebecca, wife of Leonard E. Woodward and dau. of John C. and Sarah F. (Hoyt) Hubbard, aged 54 yrs., 4 mos., 12 days.
March	21.	Mary Elizabeth, wife of Ira W. Kneeland and dau. of Josiah and Elizabeth (Phillips) Crowell, aged 74 yrs., 5 mos., 2 days.
April	12.	Sarah Elizabeth, dau. of Moses and Sarah E. (Stickney) More, aged 61 yrs., 11 mos., 1 day.





April	18.	Domenico, son of Antonio and Filomena Santo (Nicola) Scoglio, aged 8 mos., 5 days.
April	21.	Margaret Y., widow of C. Austin Averill and dau. of Charles and Anna H. (Lake) Sweeney, aged 74 yrs., 8 mos., 29 days.
April	23.	Carrie Lena, dau. of James and Johanna (Carroll) Deickhoff, aged 22 yrs., 3 mos.
May	5.	Lucilla A., dau. of Gideon and Content (Wood) Phillips, aged 80 yrs., 15 days.
May	5.	William H., son of Humphrey and Mary L. (Chapman) Kneeland, aged 77 yrs., 4 mos., 20 days.
May	15.	Charles W., son of Elijah and Elizabeth (Bolman) Long, aged 85 yrs. 6 mos., 24 days.
May	17.	William Melville, son of James and ——— (Creolman) Ellis, aged 66 yrs., 4 mos., 10 days.
May	24.	Harriet Lucy, widow of Calvin Fuller and dau. of Andrew and Mary (Lake) Gould, aged 75 yrs., 7 days.
June	30.	Carlo, son of Joseph and Saverio (Montcalvo) Gesauldo, aged 19 yrs.
Oct.	4.	Mary S., widow of David G. Perkins and dau. of Anthony and Sarah (Tomkins) Chase, aged 84 yrs., 2 mos., 14 days.
Nov.	3.	James W., son of Thomas and Margaret (Riley) Cass, aged 68 yrs.
Nov.	26.	Elizabeth R., wife of William Keith and dau. of James R. and Jenet (Watt) Michie, aged 43 yrs., 4 mos., 1 day.
Dec.	11.	Elmer B., Jr., son of Elmer B. and Hannah G. (Blaney) Thomas, aged 4 mos., 2 days.
Dec.	17.	Mary L., widow of Warren Nichols and dau. of Andrew and Mary (Lake) Gould, aged 81 yrs., 7 mos., 7 days.
Dec.	20.	James Welch, aged about 55 yrs.

### Deaths in Other Places, Interment in Topsfield.

1912.

Jan.	26.	Ida May Phillips, died in Salem, Mass., aged 56 yrs., 1 mo.
Jan.	30.	Mary P. Covey, died in Chelsea, Mass., aged 72 yrs., 10 mos., 3 days.
Jan.	31.	——— Welch, died in West Newbury, Mass., aged 1 day.
March	19.	Charles G. Gotton, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 67 yrs., 11 mos., 26 days.
April	1.	Carrie A. Pingree, died in Middleton, Mass., aged 1 yr. 4 mos., 6 days.
April	21.	Alberta L. Fuller, died in Salem, Mass., aged 1 day.
May	13.	Esther J. Daley, died in Salem, Mass., aged 65 yrs., 2 mos., 2 days.
Aug.	17.	D. B. Pike, died in Old Town, Me., aged 51 yrs.
Aug.	18.	Ernest B. Elliott, died in Haverhill, Mass., aged 33 yrs., 8 days.
Sept.	8.	Caroline A. Castle, died in Chelsea, Mass., aged 32 yrs., 7 mos., 3 days.
Sept.	22.	Louise A. Butterick, died in Boxford, Mass., aged 48 yrs., 9 mos., 16 days.
Nov.	27.	Mary E. Fuller, died in Lawrence, Mass., aged 10 yrs., 11 mos., 1 day.





## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1912.

1912.

- January. John C. Lamson, M. D., of Boston, a native of Topsfield, bequeaths \$5000. to the Topsfield Town Library.
- March. Rev. George M. Boicourt, of Bonner Springs, Kansas, appointed pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- June 24. Two additional mid-forenoon trains added to the schedule of the Boston & Maine R. R.
- Sept. 17-18. Annual Cattle Show and Fair of the Essex County Agricultural Society at the Agricultural Farm.
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## BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1912.

- James P. Hale, High St.; bungalow.
- John S. Lawrence, Ipswich St.; bungalow and carriage house.
- Herbert D. Northey, off Prospect St.; house and garage.
- Thomas P. Pingree, Colerain; dwelling-house.
- Hiram L. Clay, Colerain; dwelling-house.
- Henry B. Williams, West S.; dwelling-house.
- Charles P. Potter, Central St.; barn.
- Franklin Balch, Salem St.; piazza.
- George H. Shattuck, Wenham St.; pump-house.
- Thomas W. Pierce, Boston St.; bungalow and pump-house.
- George Francis Dow, Main St.; the Wildes-Hutchings house removed to High St., and remodelled into two dwelling-houses.
- Merrill B. Bailey, Main St.; shoe manufactory taken down and removed to Georgetown.
- Union Metallic Paint Co., off West St.; shop.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1912.

John C. Landon, M.D., of Boston, a native of Topsfield, requests  
 school to the Topsfield Town Library.  
 Rev. George M. Holcomb, of Kansas Springs, Kansas, appointed  
 pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.  
 Two additional mid-winter sales added to the schedule of the  
 Boston & Maine R. R.  
 Annual Cattle Show and Fair of the Essex County Agricultural  
 Society at the Agricultural Farm.

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BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1912.

James P. Hale, High St.; bungalow.  
 J. Lawrence, Ipswich St.; bungalow and carriage house.  
 Robert D. Northey, off Prospect St.; house and garage.  
 Thomas P. Pingree, Colman; dwelling house.  
 John L. Clay, Colman; dwelling-house.  
 Mrs. B. Williams, West St.; dwelling-house.  
 Charles P. Potter, Central St.; barn.  
 Franklin Hatch, Salem St.; piazza.  
 George H. Shattuck, Woburn St.; pump-house.  
 Thomas W. Pierce, Boston St.; bungalow and pump-house.  
 George Francis Dow, Main St.; the Wilbur-Hatchings house removed to High  
 St., and remodelled into two dwelling-houses.  
 Merrill B. Bailey, Main St.; shoe manufactory taken down and removed to  
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 John Melanic Paint Co., off West St.; shop.















